Walsall
CHRONICLE
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## £11m Hawthorns retirement flats may face demolition

# CARE VILLAGE IN SHOWDOWN

Report by Jordan Harris

**OWNERS of an £11 million luxury retirement village were making their case this week to keep the facility standing, after bosses claimed it has not complied with planning regulations.**

The Hawthorns in Erdington Road, Aldridge, was granted planning permission on the basis of being a 70-bedroom care home – but officers from Walsall Council say this is not the case.

It is claimed the building has instead been transformed into rented flats, according to a report to go before the council's planning committee today. Members are being encouraged by planning officers to issue an enforcement notice.

If agreed, owners Avery Healthcare will have one month to demolish the 'unlawful building' and restore the land to its previous condition, or face prosecution. The building was previously discussed at a meeting in September, but officers decided to delay so they could continue talks with Avery Healthcare.

### Distinction

The council's head of planning and building control, David Elsworthy, said: "Planning permission was granted for a C2 care home and not for 70 individual self-contained flats. The distinction is important in planning terms.

"Avery Healthcare have sought to establish that the use of the property falls within use class C2 and is not being used for an alternative purpose. Officers remain of the view that the property is not being used in accordance with the description of the approved scheme."

Officers were due to meet with representatives from Avery Healthcare on Monday for a final discussion ahead of today's meeting – as the owners seek to prove they are using the building correctly.

It had been planned that a notice would be served on April 18. A spokesman from Avery Healthcare said: "The Hawthorns is registered with the Care Quality Commission for residential care. It complies with all requirements for such a service, and highly qualified staff provide care and support 24 hours a day.

"The Hawthorns is working with the council to address any confusion it may have regarding this service for which it has the required planning permission, and looks forward to continuing its positive contribution to the community in the area."

## QUICK-THINKING KEIRA SAVES MUM WITH CALL

Stacey McLoughlin, aged 24, with daughter Keira, eight, holding a bravery award made by her nan, and three-year-old son Kai

WHEN mother-of-two Stacey McLoughlin found herself struggling for breath, her quick-thinking eight-year-old daughter jumped into action and called 999.

Stacey suffers with pulmonary disease, a severe condition affecting the lungs. She had to be rushed to hospital and was placed on a life-support machine during the ordeal, which happened while she was with her children. The 24-year-old said her daughter, Keira Williams, saved her life after the youngster called for an ambulance when she realised her mother was in trouble.

Stacey, who has recently moved to Randlay, in Telford, had started to struggle for breath when she was with Keira and her three-year-old son Kai McLoughlin outside their previous home in Bloxwich. "I explained to my daughter that she had to call an ambulance as quickly as she could," Stacey said.

"I couldn't breathe. She ran into the house and I managed to get into the house with her. She took my phone and called for an ambulance. She was able to give them all the details they needed from memory."

Stacey, with her two children, was put in the ambulance and taken to Walsall Manor Hospital for further treatment.

But she found her situation quickly taking a turn for the worse and had to be placed on a life-support machine to help with her breathing. She said: "By the time the ambulance got there I was critical. I was told if it was minutes later, I would not have pulled through."

The mother-of-two was diagnosed with pulmonary disease in November last year. The youngster, who attends Lower Farm Primary School in Bloxwich, was given her own bravery award by her grandmother, Sharon.

CRISIS

## Councillor in call for summit on travellers

A WALSALL councillor is calling for a summit meeting with Police Commissioner David Jamieson and council teams to tackle the ongoing traveller crisis. It comes as more than 20 caravans set up camp on George Rose Park in Darlaston last Thursday. Walsall Council issued a notice for the travellers to vacate the land within seven days.

Councillor Doug James, who represents the Darlaston South ward, said: "I now want to have a summit meeting with David Jamieson and senior police and enforcement and licensing teams as there needs to be a rethink on how authorities deal with this."

TRANSPORT

## Traffic review urged after drain hazard

CALLS have been made for the long term future of roads in a Walsall town to be 'looked at urgently'. Work is currently being carried out at Coltham Road, Willenhall, after a drain cover dropped last week, causing a hazard for motorists.

Walsall Council put temporary traffic lights in place to ensure the safety of the area, however local councillor Liz Hazell said: "When there is an accident or traffic jams on the M6, this results in Wesley Road or Coltham Road, leading to Straight Road, being used as the alternative. In the long term the future of these roads and the volume of traffic they take needs to be looked at."

CHARITY

## Glyn apes runners with marathon bid

A WILLENHALL man completed the London Marathon dressed as a gorilla in a cage.

Glyn Marston, aged 52, completed the 26.2 mile run in the unique costume with a time of seven hours 35 minutes.

Glyn, who was running for Epilepsy Action, said: "I am thrilled to have completed the London Marathon for Epilepsy Action. The course was tough at times, and with my gorilla cage I ended up having to power walk for most of it.

The race was was Glyn's 15th London Marathon and his first for a decade.

People can still sponsor Glyn by visiting justgiving.com/glyn-marston

INSIDE
Check out new homes section

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# Bridge vandalised after £130k makeover

The vandalised bridge

VANDALS have defaced one of the Black Country's most iconic canal bridges, days after it received a makeover as part of a £130,000 restoration project.

Spray painters targeted Rotton Park Junction Bridge in Smethwick, spraying graffiti on the Victorian-era structure.

This came after work was due to finish to restore the bridge which saw 200-year-old brickwork repointed and scrubbed clean and old graffiti removed.

Lawrence Tall, from the Canal & River Trust, said: "This is so disappointing and really sad that after all our hard efforts to remove the old graffiti, new scribbles and tags have reappeared literally days after we cleaned it and made it look lovely. The graffiti really isn't the welcome to Birmingham that boaters and visitors want to see when out on the canal, and I'm sure local people are equally as frustrated as we are."

It is thought vandals targeted the bridge on the weekend of April 9 and 10.

It is one of three metal bridges on the Icknield Port Loop currently being repaired and cleaned by the Canal & River Trust. The funds have come from donations by members of the public. A large area of the restoration work saw the bridges' structures revamped, where brickwork was repointed.

The Canal & River Trust looks after 2,000 miles of historic waterways in England and Wales, caring for Britain's third largest collection of listed structures, as well as museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites.

Anyone with any information regarding the graffiti can call the Canal & River Trust on 03030 404040. For information visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

# High infant deaths in town prompt action

**WALSALL has one of the highest rates in the country for infant deaths, it has been revealed.**

The issue has been linked to high deprivation in the town which is still battling historical problems of teenage pregnancies and smoking among expectant mothers. Both are known to increase the chances of death for children under one.

The borough's infant mortality rate is 6.8 per 1,000 births – way above the national average of 4.1 per 1,000.

The figures relating to teenage pregnancies, published by the Officer of National Statistics in 2014, showed that Walsall had the ninth highest rate of conception among teenagers in the country of 37.5 pregnancies per 1,000 under 18s.

The figures had fallen since 1998, however, when it was 67.2 and are expected to have dropped further in the last two years.

In a report published last week Dr Barbara Watt, director at Public Health England, said: "Teenage pregnancy, smoking in pregnancy and maternal obesity are known to be risk factors for infant mortality.

### Challenge

"Rates of teenage pregnancy and smoking in pregnancy in Walsall are dropping but continue to present a challenge, particularly in the more deprived areas within Walsall."

Health chiefs from the council, Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust have held talks over developing a strategy to combat deaths in under-ones in the borough. Dr Watt's report was tabled this week at a meeting of the council's own Health and Wellbeing board.

It added: "Both infant and perinatal mortality are strongly associated with deprivation, with infant mortality significantly higher in the most deprived areas of Walsall. Reducing health inequalities in infant mortality requires a combination of health interventions and actions on the wider social determinants of health."

"Walsall has the highest levels of low birth weight babies both nationally and regionally at rates of 10.2 per 1000.

"Low birth weight babies are more likely to die in the first year of life and have a higher incidence of disability and other diseases than babies of normal birth weight."

## Action call at 'eyesore' old pub site

The old cellar doors are open at the site of the former Butlers Arms in Leamore

CALLS have been made to regenerate a derelict site labelled a 'death trap' and an eyesore.

The site of the old Butlers Arms pub on the junction of Harden Road and Bloxwich Road, Leamore, has fallen into disrepair since the pub was demolished.

After being left open for a number of years, protective fencing was put in place. However local councillor Pete Smith has called for something to be done after a section was torn down, revealing a hole in the ground that he believes poses a danger for children at a nearby school.

Councillor Smith said: "Despite bringing this to the attention of the authorities some years ago, the steps leading to the former pub cellar has still not been sealed. The site is right opposite the Christ Church School and the site can be easily accessed by anyone, including young children.

"Once on site, the heavy metal doors leading to what was the cellar are open. If a child gets in there and the doors are closed, the child would never get out."

The site is situated on an arterial route into Walsall, with Councillor Smith claiming it has 'blotted the landscape' since the pub was demolished.

He said: "This eyesore of a site has blotted the landscape of one of the main routes into Walsall for years.

"Something must be done as a matter of urgency."

# 'Worrying' shortage of social workers

COUNCILS in the West Midlands need to recruit more than 650 social workers, as authorities rely on agency staff to cover otherwise empty posts, new figures have revealed.

Walsall is the worst-affected area, with one in four social worker roles vacant, and 73 per cent of gaps being temporarily filled by agency staff.

The authority employs 128 social workers but has 48 vacancies – with 35 being filled by agency staff. In 2014 it had 139 social workers.

Councillor Mike Bird, leader of Walsall Council, said the figures were 'worrying' but added that the authority was recruiting. "It is very disappointing but we are having trouble recruiting the staff, not just us but across the whole of the West Midlands. We are currently advertising for some 20 roles.

"Being a social worker is a very difficult job – if you get a decision wrong once, then it is career over, and I think some of the high-profile cases we have seen recently have had an effect."

In Wolverhampton, the council needs to recruit 28 social workers, with all vacant positions currently filled by agency workers. The council employs 156 social workers – down from 163.

Sandwell has the fewest vacancies in the region, with 19. It has agency staff filling 17 positions, along with 185 already employed social workers.

# Family sought after man dies

RELATIVES of a Walsall pensioner who died recently are being asked to come forward. John Hemingsley passed away aged 78 after a short illness.

He was a bachelor and had lived in sheltered accommodation at the Bescot Lodge home for several years and more recently at Mattersley Court, in Walsall.

During his life John had worked as an engineer and served in the Army. According to his carers he was also a talented musician.

Rebecca Evans, of Walsall Council's environmental health team, said: "We would like to pass our condolences on to Mr Hemingsley's family and friends."

People can contact becky.evans@walsall.gov.uk or telephone 01922 653052.

# Armed pub raiders steal cash and car

AN investigation is under way after masked thieves threatened pub staff and customers with knives, before stealing a car. The robbery took place at 9.20pm on Sunday at the Ivy House, Great Wyrley.

Two men entered the pub demanding a customer's car keys before leaving in the stolen car with a quantity of cash.

Staffordshire Police say no-one was injured but those involved were left shaken by the incident. The men drove off towards Great Wyrley in the car which is a red Volkswagen Polo registration number BN15 VYJ.


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# Chippy CCTV showed the identity of house raider

A FISH and chip shop CCTV system ensured a crook got caught after he burgled the house opposite, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The camera at Mr Chips in Bloxwich Road, Walsall put police in the picture about the identity of the culprit by filming prolific criminal Matthew Walters outside the targeted premises shortly before the break-in.

The 30-year-old was quickly recognised from the footage and was found hiding in a wardrobe at his home in nearby Northumberland Way two hours later, said Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting.

Another man seen on the security film – Adam Mosedale – was also held at the house where items of jewellery stolen in the raid was discovered hidden in the garden shed. The next morning police returned to the address and found more of the stolen haul, including credit cards.

One of the cards had been used within minutes of the theft to buy an Apple iPhone online.

Mosedale had been in the chip shop when the house was burgled by Walters who jumped over a rear wall and broke in through a kitchen door during the evening of September 10, 2015. Mr Oliver Woolhouse, defending Mosedale who had 34 previous convictions said: "He is a man who is regularly in and out of custody."

Walters, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to the burglary and was jailed for two and a half years while Mosedale admitted handling and received a 12-month prison term.

# Airport row over rival China flights

AN aviation spat has broken out as Manchester Airport swooped into Birmingham to promote its new direct flights to China – shortly before its West Midlands rival announces its own new service to the country.

Paul Kehoe

Birmingham Airport is finalising negotiations to unveil a service to Beijing and Shanghai this summer. But Manchester Airport held a showcase event for corporate and business travellers at the Hotel La Tour in Birmingham city centre, along with Hainan Airlines which is starting the flights to Beijing in June.

Manchester Airport's commercial director Stephen Turner said: "The route will give individuals and businesses direct access to China and the Far East, which will stimulate trade and investment."

But Birmingham Airport chief executive Paul Kehoe said it was "surprising" that "another region should need to come to our city to promote its services."

# Hospice donation is wheely great

Neil Webb, Pauline Morris from St Giles Hospice, Kerry Jackson and Lisa Webb with the wheelchairs

A HOSPICE has received a host of wheelchairs thanks to the generosity of a late mother.

Sheila Webb died from cancer on Christmas Day, but wanted to leave behind a thank you to St Giles hospice.

Instead of the traditional flowers, she had asked people attending her funeral to donate money towards getting the hospice some new wheelchairs.

The 13 chairs were handed over to the hospice at her son Neil's home in Cheslyn Hay.

He said his mother's own wheelchair had given her so much freedom. "My mum was diagnosed with terminal cancer at the start of 2015 and she passed away on Christmas day," he said.

"Around the spring/summer she lost all the strength in her legs. We contacted St Giles Hospice and they put her on the waiting list for a wheelchair.

"When she got one it was fantastic, she could be mobile and even had a weekend out in London. She was hoping to raise enough money for five wheelchairs but we raised enough for 14 – 13 have gone to St Giles while we are keeping one back for a friend.

"My mum would definitely be proud, she was hoping for five so I think with 13 she would be smiling."

Mr Webb was helped in securing and donating the chairs by his sisters, Lisa Webb and Kerry Jackson, and his brother-in-law Simon Jackson.

# Homeserve looking for 100 more staff at HQ

**HOUSEHOLD repairs and insurance group HomeServe is recruiting another 100 people to work at its Walsall headquarters.**

It is thought to be the biggest jobs boost at the Green Lane offices since HomeServe's recovery from a customer care and mis-selling crisis three years ago.

And the new posts could offer a much-needed lifeline to workers at the British Gas call centre in nearby Oldbury, which is set for closure with the loss of nearly 700 jobs.

The much-needed jobs boost for the Black Country comes as Homeserve's UK membership business sees customer numbers soar to more than two million.

The UK's leading home assistances company, offering policies covering everything from burst pipes and dodgy electrics to broken freezers and stained carpets, HomeServe is organising two open days as part of its recruitment drive for 100 new roles, mostly at its Walsall contact centre but also for back-office roles at the headquarters site, where it currently employs around 1,200 people.

## Mantra

"As our UK business continues to develop, so does our need for great people to come and help us", said Martin Bennett, chief executive of HomeServe Membership. We have a simple mantra at Homeserve which is if our people are happy, they will take care of our customers and that will give us a successful business."

The company says it is seeking talented people from across the region to join its award-winning customer contact centre at Cable Drive.

Earlier this year, HomeServe's Customer contact centre topped an independent review by the Institute of Customer Service for the helpfulness of its staff over the phone – with a market leading 8.7 out of 10 score.

In its half year figures, in November, HomeServe revealed revenue had risen more than £20 million to £262.3m.

Potential candidates are being invited along to the two recruitment days at its Walsall headquarters on Thursday, May 12, between 5pm and 8pm, or Saturday, May 14, from 10am to 2pm.

Alternatively, people can apply for new roles via HomeServe's new careers hub, an online portal.

For more information, job hunters can visit http://www.homeserve.com/uk/careers-hub.

# Changing face of town's canal

Wednesfield Junction Bentley Canal as it is seen today

Wednesfield Junction of the Bentley Canal in1992

THE changing face of Bentley Canal is in evidence at Wednesfield Junction, with these pictures – helping memories of the historic site remain lock-ed in.

One image shows how it looked in 1992, with a narrowboat resting on calm waters beside bushes and greenery running adjacent to the canal.

The other shows it now with The Nickelodeon pub and restaurant alongside one side of the water, with a wider, cobbled path on the opposite side.

The canal is one of the Black Country's lost canals.

## Foundries

It ran from the crowded outskirts of Wolverhampton, through Wednesfield and on to the edge of Walsall.

The 3.5 mile waterway was built later than most canals in 1843 with 10 locks falling from the west to the east.

The canal formed a busy communication link to mines and foundries in the area, before becoming derelict during the course of the 1960s and bulldozed in the early 1990s.

The line of the canal cuts across the landscape a track which can still be viewed from Google Earth.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Hospital baby unit improving

FAILING maternity services at Walsall Manor Hospital have improved since a damning Care Quality Commission report earlier this year thanks to the recruitment of more midwives.

The national recommendation is to operate at a ratio of 28 births per midwife but the hospital was running at 37 births to every midwife when inspectors visited last year.

But this week Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust confirmed the rate is now at one midwife for every 31 births. Births at Walsall Manor Hospital have already been capped to more than 4,500 this year. It comes after it was revealed infant morality in Walsall is still way above the national average because of deprivation in the borough.

Amir Khan, medical director at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust said: "It is important to bear in mind that there are a number of wider factors affecting health during pregnancy, including smoking and stress, and we work with GPs and public health teams to tackle these where we can.

"We have increased our midwifery staffing levels."

## Report call over health contract

COUNCIL bosses in Walsall are to commission a report over the the contract for the town's health watchdog.

The council handed the contract to an organisation outside of the borough at the end of Healthwatch Walsall's three-year term to deliver the service. The body scrutinises services and relays patient concerns to NHS bosses.

Made up of organisations based in the town, including Age UK and Walsall Housing Group, it bid for the contract again but it was awarded to Engaging Communities Staffordshire.

Councillor Sean Coughlan was among several elected members to 'call-in' the decision for extra scrutiny criticising the fact a 'critical service' would be delivered by 'outsiders'.

Bosses will meet again to discuss the issue. Officers will table a recommendation stating: "That Cabinet consider commissioning a lessons learnt report on the issues that occurred with the management of the previous contract with Healthwatch Walsall."

## EuroMillions winner sought

THE owner of an unclaimed EuroMillions ticket bought in West Bromwich that won £1 million and the trip-of-a-lifetime to America is being sought by the National Lottery.

There were five winners of the EuroMillions UK Millionaire Maker raffle draw that took place on March 25 – where each were guaranteed to win £1,000,000 and a trip to the US.

But one of the winning tickets, which was bought in West Bromwich, is yet to be claimed.

The winning numbers and letters were JDG845603 and the owner has until September 21 to claim it.


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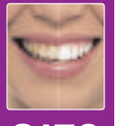

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

AND now, positively the last in our thread of things misunderstood in childhood. A former teacher tells me of children reciting the Lord's Prayer and fervently asking not to be led into Thames Station. Thanks for all your contributions.

LIKE an errant spouse promising to improve, the European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker admits the EU has lost "parts of its attractiveness" to ordinary citizens and interfered too much in their private lives. Like so many errant spouses, he then spoils it by making a threat, calling Brexit "pie in the sky." Either way, it's too late, pal. Your pie's in the oven and we're packing our bags.

IF a shop in your high street put up a sign saying "No Muslims" or "No Jews," you would probably be horrified. You would expect the police to act. Yet it was claimed on Radio 4's Sunday programme that some Muslim shops are openly displaying signs telling members of the Ahmadi community that they are not welcome as customers. Does anybody care about this blatant breach of our race laws? Over to you, chief constable . . .

A FRIEND expected a real tug-of-war as he set about replacing a double-glazed window. Then he discovered that the frame of the existing window, fitted 14 years ago by a professional, was not fixed with a single screw. The entire window was held in place purely by mastic. A quick tug and it was out. Not so much DIY but more DIP: Do-It-Properly.

ALTHOUGH she was only 62, many of Victoria Wood's best characters were inspired by those strong, self-sacrificing, tragicomic and endlessly resourceful 1940s women who coped with wartime separation and bereavement by carrying on as normal, whistling as they worked and never letting the tears show. In our race-memory there is a time when England was populated almost entirely by Victoria Woods, making do and mending, and was better for it.

ANGELA Merkel says migrants planning to stay in Germany should be obliged to learn German. Haven't they suffered enough? A reader once memorably defined German as "an interesting language but too many fahrts to be taken seriously."

HER Majesty's 90th birthday has focused attention on the issue of monarchy versus republic. These are hard times for the republicans because the monarchy has never been so popular. And if we had a revolution tomorrow and the next head of state was elected on the votes of 40 million citizens, I bet the successful candidate would be Prince William, by a mile.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# £18k of cannabis found after deal

POLICE uncovered a near £18,000 haul of cannabis after spotting a street drug deal, a judge heard.

The officers spotted a man buying skunk from Sheraz Azam in Pargeter Street, Walsall on June 27, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

He was in a car with Joanne Mills, who was the partner of the 33-year-old at the time, and police later found £17,820 worth of the drug when they raided her home. More than a kilo was sorted into 22 bags with other small street deals ready for sale hidden elsewhere at the address, said Mr Michael Conry, prosecuting.

Analysis of the content of a mobile phone also discovered by the officers confirmed that the 27-year-old had been helping Azam who was the drug dealer. Mr Jasvir Mann, defending, explained: "She was holding drugs for her then boyfriend and he accepts, to his shame, that he used her. He and she are no longer together, not because they dislike each other, but because it has been mutually decided that they are not good for each other."

Bakery worker Azam from Hollyhedge Lane, Walsall pleaded guilty to possession of cannabis with intent to supply while carer Mills of Revival Street, Walsall admitted being concerned in the production of the drug.

Recorder Simon Ward told her: "You got yourself involved in what your boyfriend was doing but not as a business partner." She received a 12 month community order with 80 hours unpaid work while Azram received an eight month prison sentence suspended for two years with a four month night time curfew.

# Call for cohesion to bring area together

Report by Jordan Harris

**TRIBALISM within towns across Walsall needs to be broken down so the community can move forward, according to a councillor.**

The council's public services scrutiny panel identified the need to form a 'community cohesion group' in June last year.

Members of the scrutiny panel said the borough had been targeted by right-wing extremists, who were attempting to build mistrust, fear and ultimately hatred among communities.

The group gave its first report back to the committee on Thursday. Councillor Ian Shires said: "Walsall is a borough with a long history of diverse communities settling here and becoming an integral part of this proud and historic town.

### Parochial

"There is also a history, in the main, of acceptance and good community relations. The residents of Walsall do often identify themselves as belonging to a district area of the town, for example Bloxwich, Willenhall, Brownhills, Streetly or Aldridge.

"There are historic reasons for this parochial thinking and that sense of pride has many positives but it does have a negative impact where cohesion is concerned. This creates challenges when the one Walsall community vision is being promoted."

The borough's increasing multi-culturalism was also discussed at the meeting, with it being claimed that more needs to be done to celebrate the diverse communities who form Walsall in 2016.

The latest school data indicates that this year, over 137 languages are spoken in Walsall schools.

The percentage differences of white and black, minority and ethnic (BME) groups in different Walsall towns is also wide ranging.

Areas like Palfrey have a 62 per cent BME majority, while in Aldridge and Walsall Wood, the white percentage is 95 per cent.

## Woman, 70, trapped after car overturns

**A hole was created to get the 70-year-old woman driver out of the car in Coronation Road, High Heath**

A 70-YEAR-old woman became trapped in her car after it hit a parked vehicle and rolled over in Walsall.

An off-duty firefighter in the area at the time was the first to arrive at the incident which happened around 10.15am on April 17 in Coronation Road in High Heath, Pelsall.

He immediately went to the aid of the woman and tried to stabilise her as she lay in the overturned blue Skoda, before alerting emergency services.

Around 10 firefighters from Aldridge and Bloxwich stations attended and cut the casualty free by creating a hole in the side of the car.

It appeared she escaped serious injuries but was sent to hospital to be checked over. A fire service spokesman said: "We had a call at 10.17am to an overturned car. A woman was trapped by her injuries and needed to be released. She is 70 years old. It appears the vehicle collided with a parked car and came to rest on its roof."

West Midlands Ambulance Service confirmed an ambulance and paramedic attended.

Watch commander Steve Palmer of Aldridge Fire Station added: "An off-duty firefighter who was in the area saw the incident and managed to get into the car and do what he could do.

"We stabilised her and gave her oxygen before the ambulance crews arrived. We were able to cut the doors and big posts off before removing her on a scoop stretcher. It probably took about 20 minutes to get her out."

# 11 charged since car cruising ban brought in

ELEVEN so-called boy racers have been charged since a Black Country-wide injunction was introduced to end the menace of car cruising just over a year ago.

Police say the number of incidents has fallen sharply since the ground-breaking ban across four boroughs was brought in, and predict that the trend will continue.

Seven culprits were caught earlier this month, while the first to fall foul of the ban was sentenced in August.

The restriction – covering roads across Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall – was brought into force in February last year, preventing people from promoting, organising or publicising a car cruise, as well as taking part in one. The move was launched in following a rise in groups congregating at hotspots in the Black Country to race each other.

The 11 racers have been convicted of contempt of court, and further prosecutions are pending, say police. They warn offenders could face up to two years in prison or a large fine.

The injunction, introduced in February 2015, defines car cruising as the act of drivers meeting on the public highway on an organised or impromptu basis to race or show off in their cars.

Chief Inspector Jed White from West Midlands Police's motorway policing unit said: "The injunction enables us to continue to tackle those individuals who flout the laws of the road and pose a danger for innocent members of the public."

## M-way bridge man falls to his death

A MAN plunged to his death from a motorway bridge in Walsall bringing rush-hour traffic to a standstill in both directions. Commuters were stuck in queues stretching more than three miles as emergency services staff dealt with the incident at Junction 10 of the M6 last Thursday.

The dead man, fell from Bentley Lane bridge at around 9.30am. Highways England said motorists experienced delays of 20 minutes on both north and southbound carriageways.

West Midlands Ambulance Service were called to the incident at 9.23am. Spokesman Jamie Arrowsmith said the man was treated at the scene before being airlifted to Queen Elizabeth Hospital, shortly after arrival, he was confirmed dead. The motorway was fully opened at 10.40am.

## Roadworks on way with surfacing bid

DRIVERS in Walsall could face evening delays as a popular road is closed for surfacing works.

Brownhills Road will be closed between the junctions of A461 Lichfield Road and Clayhanger Road from 8pm until 6am, starting tonight, Thursday.

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# Community centre vow sparks an election row

AN election row has broken out in Walsall after the Labour group pledged to build a new community centre, less than a minute away from the current Ryecroft community hub.

The move has been described by a former mayor as 'a false promise' that 'cannot possibly be viable'.

In 2014 it was decided there was no future for the former Ryecroft Resource Centre and Dartmouth house, which Labour want to renovate, and that the nearby site in New Forest Road, which was eventually chosen, was far more suitable.

But in an election leaflet for Labour's Matt Ward, who is standing in Blakenall on May 5, it states: "Our biggest regret is that we were unable to save the Ryecroft Resource Centre. If we win control on May 5 we will rebuild a new community centre for our elderly and local community's use on this now derelict land."

But the move was slammed by Blakenall councillor Pete Smith who was instrumental in having the new community hub built in New Forest Road. He said: "To promise a new community centre just a few hundred yards from an existing, thriving and expanding centre is a false promise that cannot possibly be viable.

"We know that in an election campaign, candidates can exaggerate a bit but to be so fanciful with the truth is really unacceptable."

But Walsall Labour leader Sean Coughlan insisted the new centre was required and that Labour would continue 'to invest in communities'.

# Cameras installed to protect falcons

CAMERAS and motion sensors have been put in place to protect falcons from vandals at a quarry site in Shareshill.

Peregrine falcons return to Saredon Quarry each spring to nest, lay their eggs and raise their chicks.

The birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb them when nesting.

However, there have been reports in the past of egg thefts and damage, and evidence of nests being destroyed.

Steps including CCTV and added signage have been taken. Pc Pete Clarke, Staffordshire Police's wildlife officer, said:"Our officers are carrying out regular patrols and once again we have been able to install cameras."

# Appeal to drivers during roadworks

DRIVERS are advised to steer clear of a Willenhall area where roadworks are causing issues at peak times.

Motorists are urged to avoid the Lucknow Road area if possible while Severn Trent Water carries out works.

# Canalside haul is real scoop for team

The volunteers. Picture: Alan Lines

SUPERMARKET trolleys, a bike and a traffic cone were just some of the items hauled out of the Birmingham and Black Country canal in Walsall in a clean-up event. The event was hosted by the Waterway Recovery Group who brought 45 volunteers to the Walsall stretch of the historic canal.

Other items hauled from the canal include a pushchair, scrap metal and even a barbecue. It was the second time within a few weeks that an extensive canal clean took place in Walsall. Last month a team of volunteers led by Darlaston councillor Doug James, spent a morning cleaning up the area where Midland Road meets the Walsall canal.

The group of volunteers, including local firemen, pulled out a motorbike, 16 shopping trolleys, scrap metal and 50 bags of litter. The waterway had also become polluted by oil.

The clean-up was part of the 'Clean for the Queen' scheme encouraging people to tidy up their communities to mark the Queen's 90th birthday.

The canal clean was one of many that the Waterway Recovery Group did up and down the country. Founded in 1970, the group is the national coordinating body for voluntary labour on UK inland waterways.

The group has helped restore many derelict waterways throughout Britain. One of their largest projects was the complete rebuilding of the four Frankton Locks and the three Aston Locks on the Montgomery Canal, which passes through the Welsh borders. Other projects include the construction of Over Basin on the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal and more recently the restoration of Droitwich Barge Lock.

# Cash-strapped families owe council £655,000

**WALSALL Council is owed more than £655,000 in council tax arrears dating back to April last year.**

New figures reveal that 40 per cent of households who are entitled to a 75 per cent reduction have not yet paid.

In April 2015, the authority introduced a new scheme for paying council tax, where all households in the borough had to pay at least 25 per cent council tax.

Councillor Pete Smith, who obtained the figures after asking a series of questions at a council meeting, said the scheme has resulted in 'summons being issued like confetti and debts piling up'.

Some 10,416 households were awarded the maximum council tax reduction of 75 per cent, according to council leader, Councillor Mike Bird, who Councillor Smith directed the question to.

But of these 10,000 or so homes, only 6,157, or 59.11 per cent, have actually paid their council tax, meaning as of March 31, 4,259 homes are in arrears. The arrears equate to £655,406.99. This figure represents a decrease on January, when arrears stood at over £800,000.

## Struggling

Speaking after the figures were released, Councillor Bird called for a relaxation of austerity measures as 'people out there are struggling'. He said: "It is a worrying figure but people out there are struggling. I think that we need to have some relaxation on the austerity measures.

"I saw Greg Clarke, secretary of state for communities and local government and put my case to him – people are struggling and it is not easy.

"I have sympathy for those struggling, yes. It is not a matter of them not wanting to pay, they can't pay."

Councillor Smith echoed Councillor Bird's concerns. He has called on other councils up and down the country to rebel against the Government's cuts to local councils and force them into a U-turn.

He said: "Sadly in the short time that the new council tax scheme has been in force the debts have piled up.

"No administration is going to reverse this charge but we need to keep a close eye and make sure no administration tries to raise the charge past 25 per cent."

# Police swoop after armed raid

Shoppers look on in Walsall town centre as police officers make their move

THIS is the dramatic moment armed police swooped on Walsall town centre following a raid on Pelsall Co-op by a man believed to have had a handgun.

The image show officers with automatic weapons in The Bridge area of the town centre, as shoppers look on.

It happened at around 4pm last Wednesday and came hours after the Co-op in Pelsall High Street was raided. A raider entered the store on High Street at around 6.20am. He left on foot with cash in a holdall. A 34-year-old man was arrested in connection with the armed robbery. Staff were threatened but not injured, and police are investigating reports he was armed with a gun.

West Midlands Police spokesman Pete Edney said: "A 34-year-old man has been arrested in connection with an armed robbery at the Co-op in Pelsall which happened early on Wednesday morning. He was arrested on The Bridge in Walsall." The offender is believed to have turned left out of the shop and headed up High Street.

Officers cordoned off the shop on Wednesday afternoon while investigations continued inside.

Detective Constable Neil Cunnington, from Walsall Police, said: "No-one was hurt during the robbery. We would still like to hear from anyonein the area of the Co-op on Wednesday morning."

Call police on 101.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Land Girls call by town mayor

THE Mayor of Walsall wants to meet former Women's Land Army veterans who are living in the borough.

Councillor Angela Underhill said: "I would love to invite any former land girls to the Mayoral Parlour, to personally thank them for the enormous contribution they made during the war. It was a heavy workload, both physically and mentally."If people bought and ate home grown produce in the Black Country during that time, chances are it was our Land Girls who produced it. Their legacy in the region does them proud."

If you are a former Land Girl, know someone who is, or have a special connection to the Walsall Women's Land Army and would like to meet the Mayor, please contact: Verity Edwards, Mayor's Personal Assistant, The Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1TP.

## Man left note of overdose details

A WALSALL man who died from a overdose left a note saying what he had taken, an inquest heard.

Spencer Roberts, of Trevor Road, died at Manor Hospital on April 11.

Smethwick Coroners Court heard he had been left brain-damaged following an attack in 2008 and had a history of alcohol and drug abuse.

His sister Kelly said: "There was a note found following his death and it said what he had taken."

The cause of death given was liver failure, baclofen and paracetamol overdose, alcohol liver disease, hepatitis C and drug use. Senior coroner Zafar Siddique gave a suicide verdict.

## Students quiz top employers

STUDENTS in Walsall have been able to quiz some of the leading employers in the region at a special event put on by Walsall Housing Group.

Representatives from employers including British Gas, Keepmoat, Axis, AF Blakemore and Wates Living Space, took part in the event as part of Responsible Business Week.

The panel discussion, held at WHG's Hatherton Street office and delivered by WHG's Employment Growth team, gave roughly 60 local students a valuable opportunity to ask different businesses about their organisations.

## Rise in town's claimant count

THE number of jobless people claiming benefits in Walsall was up by 40 last month despite unemployment across the wider West Midlands falling. The borough's claimant count total was up to 4,500.

Nationally unemployment increased for the first time since August last year to stand at 1.7 million.

The figure for the West Midlands was down 6,000 to 152,000 for the period from December to February and the number in work hit 2.63m.

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## IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

# At least Villa can't be blamed for this one

ANOTHER week, another gagging order from a celebrity trying to keep their nefarious activities out of the public eye.

This time the miscreant is reported to be a Premier League football manager, a married man who reportedly demanded some extra risque photographs as a reward when his team won away. I think, on that basis we can rule out anybody connected with Aston Villa. Because they would have been in for a very long wait.

❒ ❒ ❒

GOOD old Barack Obama, what would we do without him? During last week's visit to Britain, he urged the people of this sceptered isle to vote in favour of remaining within the European Union, arguing that America would prefer to negotiate with large trading blocs.

He's obviously forgotten that his country used to be part of the biggest trading bloc in the world. Indeed, it used to be a bit like the EU in that it charged the American people a lot of money, and gave them precious little democratic representation in return.

It was called the British Empire, and I believe there were quite a few people on the other side of the Atlantic who weren't too keen on the arrangement. In fact they were so incensed that they went to war to become an independent nation.

Still, that's all water under the bridge. If Britain votes to leave the EU, I'm sure we will take them back.

❒ ❒ ❒

JUST a week to go now until the police and crime commissioner elections for the West Midlands, Staffordshire and West Mercia. While the late Bob Jones, who became the first elected commissioner for the West Midlands in 2012, famously said he hoped that his post would one day be made redundant, I always thought he did himself a disservice. Both Bob, his successor – not to mention countless other commissioners up and down the country – have done a commendable job in making the police more accountable and receptive to the general public. And despite fears about the cost, they have proved in many cases to be much cheaper than the old dinosaur-like old police committees.

That said, I do think it might be time to look at changing the name. Police commissioner, fair enough. But crime commissioner? Do we really want somebody who commissions crime?

❒ ❒ ❒

A MURAL depicting somebody with a paint roller has appeared on the side of a balti house in Brownhills, sparking speculation about whether it is a Banksy. Sounds improbable, but what we do know is it looks a mess. While taking a spray can to other people's property may seem romantic in parts of London, for millions of working people graffiti is the bane of their lives. We should be punishing these idiots, not celebrating them.

MP John Spellar, who met with ministers last week

David Cameron announces the setting up of the taskforce

Deputy Labour leader Tom Watson 'extremely concerned'

# Hammer blow of gas closure jobs threat

**PETE MADELEY** outlines the reaction to British Gas chiefs' plan to axe hundreds of jobs in the Black Country

**MPS, councillors and union officials have come together to condemn the 'hammer blow' planned axing of 684 jobs at British Gas in Oldbury.**

Following the announcement, the Prime Minister immediately announced he was launching a task force to look into the plans by the energy company to close its office at Swallowfield One in Wolverhampton Road.

Most of those being made redundant will be call centre workers and office support staff.

Union leaders criticised British Gas for shedding jobs while the company remained profitable. Spokeswoman Leonie Edwards said consultation with the GMB and Unison unions was under way. "This is not a reflection on the people at Oldbury who work very hard for our customers," she said. "We have to consolidate what we are doing to fewer sites."

## Adverse

Centrica's group-wide efficiency review found fewer customers are calling British Gas on the telephone with many doing their business online instead.

Unite regional co-ordinating officer Paresh Patel said: "This announcement is a hammer blow for the workforce at Oldbury and their families, as well as having an adverse impact on the local economy. Unite's position is that we need to do whatever we can to keep this site open and the 45-day consultation process will provide us with a platform to hear about the proposals in more detail and also to put forward alternative solutions. British Gas remains a highly profitable company. It is looking at relocating its Oldbury operation between three other sites – Erdington (in Birmingham), Leicester and Stockton."

The cuts are part of a long-term efficiency drive by parent company Centrica, which has already slashed 800 jobs in the first three months of 2016. The firm occupies three floors of the Oldbury building which is shared with the AA and has been located there since 2004.

Shock closure on the cards – the huge British Gas offices at Swallowfield One

Oldbury ward Councillor Mahboob Hussain said: "It is very shocking news. I can recall in the last 12 months at Npower where a large amount of jobs were lost. It is very bad news for the people of Sandwell. I will be asking officers at Sandwell to get in touch with the people affected in these difficult times."

UNISON national energy officer Matt Lay said: "This is terrible news for the company's Birmingham-based employees, who will be devastated at the prospect of losing their jobs.

"British Gas might be losing customers, but it's still a very profitable business.

"The scale of the cuts will make compulsory redundancies hard to avoid."

Brian Strutton, GMB National Secretary, said: "This announcement has come completely out of the blue and is further evidence of the way British Gas now sees staff as pawns to be sacrificed when it suits.

"The Oldbury office has been performing well, the staff there have been delivering everything asked of them and more, yet all the while the company's top brass on their multi-million pound pay packages have been harbouring secret plans to shut them down.

"GMB will fight British Gas to try to protect every job we can but today things look bleak for the Oldbury workers."

Meanwhile, during Prime Minister's question time last week, David Cameron announced the setting up of a taskforce of ministers to support workers affected by the proposed closure.

The taskforce will be led by Minister for Small Business, Anna Soubry, under the guidance of Business Secretary Sajid Javid.

Warley's Labour MP John Spellar met with ministers to map out the initial plans for the taskforce.

He said: "This news has come completely out of the blue. Only recently I have been working with British Gas and the council to see about increasing car parking spaces at the site because it is so overcrowded.

"That doesn't indicate a company that is struggling. The first thing we need to do is to get to the bottom of why this has happened.

"There have been no signs that their business has been going into decline. The priority is saving the site and making sure the best interests of the staff are taken care of."

Labour's deputy leader Tom Watson said he was 'extremely concerned' over the potential loss of jobs at the site. Sandwell Council's acting leader, Councillor Steve Eling, said he welcomed the setting up of the taskforce.

"The Government keep talking about new job creation in the Black Country and how important that is," he added.

"But week after week we seem to be getting bad news about jobs going in the West Midlands – we had Caparo, Tata and then this comes up.

## Online

"Hopefully sufficient pressure can be brought to bear so that British Gas change their minds.

"Clearly the council will help in whatever way we can with the work of the taskforce."

British Gas bosses reiterated that they made the 'difficult decision' to propose closing the site due to customers increasingly contacting them via online platforms.

The firm's managing director of customer operations, Claire Miles, said: "Since last summer British Gas has been implementing a strategy to improve service and reduce costs, to ensure we can price competitively.

"We must also respond to the changing needs of our customers, and they increasingly want to contact us online.

"For these reasons we are planning to consolidate our activity on fewer sites, and we have made the difficult decision to propose closing our Oldbury office and call centre."


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# Response on an evolutionary scale

REFERENCE to the letters by Don Westwood and RC Ellis, Chronicle, April 14.

For myself, with the declining numbers in the churches, more open-mindedness is certainly needed.

According to my dictionary dogma is that put forward by authority, some of which has to be very questionable.

The concept of 'God's Creation' is a useful explanation for many people, which I do accept with empathy.

Nevertheless, to describe an evolutionary process having purpose, meaning and design, when 'mistakes' in the DNA structure produce so many variants unable to tolerate the Earth's constantly changing environments, and result in the demise of that flora and fauna; leaving only those able to exist within those conditions which prevail, when and where – this really is too much.

So too, being informed that atheists have a dogma – I didn't know that.

**RAY HAMMOND**
Alexandra Way

# Workers not given full rights

THERE are many workers in Darlaston and Moxley who aren't paid enough to live on and have to rely on top up tax and benefits to get by. Firms take on staff as self-employed this is one reason jobless figures are dropping month after month. However, many of the local self-employed aren't thriving as independent contractors.

Self-employed forgo their employment rights, can refuse work, set their own hours, sub-contract jobs ideally. No, in the main courier work locally you are told what to do, when to work and what speed to work at, get sick or have an accident and you can be dropped.

Self employed can be underpaid, late paid, controlled and abused. To avoid paying staff more companies are giving their workforces of self employed or independent contractors the lowest level of payments they can. It's so called business for the booming numbers of new self employed. It's profit for the companies, it's a loss for well paid jobs.

**CLLR DOUG JAMES**
Walsall

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**POST**
Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

**EMAIL**
walsall.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

*Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.*

# Patients are pawns in NHS stalemate

YET again, some of the most vulnerable people in our society are 'being held to ransom' and used as political pawns in a dispute that they cannot influence but are none the less suffering from, as a consequence.

The stubbornness of both junior doctors and the Government, beggars belief when one considers the anxiety and suffering of the true victims i.e. the patients, with the doctors riding roughshod over the Hippocratic Oath: 'I will do no harm or injustice to them (the patient)'.

The Government, it would appear, are failing to adhere to their manifesto pledge to 'ensure that employers can staff their hospitals properly, seven days a week, in order that patients can receive the care that they require, whenever they fall ill'! And while neither are legally binding, both of them should be.

Meanwhile, were both sides willing to honour their commitments, it should be possible to find a solution within these parameters.

So, sort it out, give it a trial run for 12 months and then allow an independent arbiter to sort out any concerns that may remain afterwards, otherwise your combined stubbornness will continue to be collectively responsible for causing further anxiety and suffering, not to mention unnecessary loss of life.

**A KYTE**
Great Wyrley

# Expand our trading net

IN 1972 I expressed the opinion that Britain would be better off by forming a trade alliance with members of the Commonwealth rather than join the European Economic Community, now 44 years later I am of the same opinion.

How could we benefit better by joining a community of nations who have the same manufacturing industries as ourselves, producing similar products to ourselves than we would be by forming a tax free trade community with both developed and developing markets that would be available within the Commonwealth?

I think we would be far better off with trade agreements with the likes of Canada, India, Australia, New Zealand and other Commonwealth countries than we could ever be within a European open trade and

# Dogs should be controlled

MY wife and I regularly take a walk around our local nature reserve (Rough Wood, Short Heath). However nearly every time we do we are confronted by some walkers with their dogs who allow their animals to run in front and jump up at you as they go past.

We were there yesterday and a person with three dogs allowed one of them to jump at my wife who has recently had a painful medical procedure, the person obviously could not control three dogs running free. Please dog owners restrain your animals.

**I HUNTER**
Willenhall


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# Cancer patient, 26, calls for earlier smear tests

**A WILLENHALL woman who is battling terminal cervical cancer has called for smear tests to be made available before the current age limit of 25.**

Georgie Aldridge, aged 26, thought she had fought off the disease after undergoing surgery last year.

However, in recent weeks doctors confirmed the dreadful news it had returned and would be life-limiting. Now Georgie wants her story to help other people and is calling for earlier screening.

She said: "I am a fighter and I'm getting on with it but I would like people to read my story and if it can only help one person I will have made a difference. I think screening should be offered earlier than 25. Who knows how long this cancer was inside me?"

## Detected

Georgie's problems started in September and a month later a colposcopy revealed abnormal cells. After further scans she was told she had cervical cancer. Georgie had a radical trachelectomy to remove the mass from her cervix at City Hospital in Birmingham last December but was still unwell afterwards.

But on returning to the hospital suffering with other health issues including problems with her kidneys she was told the cervical cancer had recurred, only this time it would be terminal.

Georgie was originally due to marry husband Adam on April 16, but had already brought the wedding forward to November. So palliative care staff at the Manor Hospital, decided to mark the date with a special party for her on ward 23. She added: "I couldn't believe it when I walked into the room and saw it had been decorated and set up just for me. They made it so lovely."

Georgie with husband Adam, friends and family, during a special party in hospital

# Right royal treat for Rascals

CHILDREN at Little Rascals Day Nursery in Darlaston were chuffed to receive a thank you letter from the Queen after they sent her a home-made birthday card to mark her 90th birthday.

Before the big day last Thursday, nursery manager Hannin Mosley said that the youngsters were 'fascinated' by the Queen and were looking forward to the afternoon tea at which Walsall Mayor Councillor Angela Underhill was due to attend, along with their families.

Staff members with children

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# Jo ready for mud, sweat and tears

Jo Dulson-Cox, from Rushall, battling the elements

A WALSALL woman will face all kinds of obstacles to help those in need of a lifesaving blood stem cell donation.

Jo Dulson-Cox, from Rushall, decided to take action after her father, who has lymphoma, was told that he needed a blood stem cell donation.

And now Jo, aged 37, who works in sports and leisure at Walsall Council, will take part in the Tough Mudder obstacle race to help others in need. She hopes to raise hundreds of pounds for Delete Blood Cancer UK at the race at Belvoir Castle in Grantham on May 14.

She is also doing it to raise awareness of how people could save the life of someone with a blood cancer by registering as a potential blood stem cell donor with the charity. Jo said: "My dad was first diagnosed with lymphoma in 2009, again in 2014 and a third time in 2015. As a family we have been through a lot as he spent much of last year in hospital having intensive chemotherapy treatment.

"He was offered a blood stem cell donation and I have since learned about the UK Stem Cell Registry. I registered myself and have been telling everyone I can all about how they can register too."

Visit the Delete Blood Cancer UK website www.deletebloodcancer.org.uk. Those wanting to support Jo can donate at www.justgiving.com/Jo-Dulson-Cox1.

# Jamieson's pledge over 1,000 more beat police

**A TOTAL of 1,000 extra police officers will be out on the beat if David Jamieson is re-elected as police and crime commissioner, he has pledged.**

By Jessica Labhart

Commissioner Jamieson made the promise on Twitter on April 18, stating he will seek to recruit 1,000 officers rather than the current figure which aims to recruit 450.

The vow, would represent a U-turn for the police force, who announced in November last year, that the number of PCSOs was to fall from 535 to 119 over the next five years, a reduction of 416 positions, as part of a plan to make £130m of savings by 2020.

The news comes after Commissioner Jamieson announced, in December 2015, that there would be no compulsory redundancies of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) of which there is currently 674 in the West Midlands, and that the police would sell off the buildings they own, as well as reduce the number they rent in order to deal with funding cuts.

The commissioner made this new announcement as he launched his campaign alongside Shadow Justice Minister Lord Falconer in Walsall, last Monday. He also pledged to protect PCSOs, vowing to equip police with the best modern technology to protect themselves while out on the beat in their local communities.

Commissioner Jamieson said: "The Conservative government has hit West Midlands Police harder than any other force in the country. I have taken the tough decisions to prioritise what matters most and as a result of which if re-elected I will be able to increase recruitment by 1000, having already protected PCSOs from redundancy.

"As well as protecting officers and PCSOs I will continue to put victims first. That is why I started my campaign by visiting Crisis Point in Walsall – a charity that helps victims of sexual abuse and are supported by my Victims' Fund."

Four candidates will be standing for the for the PCC elections on May 5, for a chance of securing the £100,000 a year job. Incumbent Mr Jamieson will stand as the candidate for the Labour Party. Les Jones is The Conservative Party candidate who stood against Commissioner Jamieson in 2014, finishing second.

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# Miliband in tribute to ex-council chief

FORMER Labour leader Ed Miliband led one of the many tributes to the late Sandwell Council leader Darren Cooper at his memorial service at West Bromwich Town Hall last Friday.

Mr Milband was one of several speakers who honoured the 'Son of Sandwell' in front of 500 people, describing the values of the Labour party as running through 'every vein of Darren's body'. In a moving ceremony, members of all political parties united to pay their respects to Mr Cooper, who died suddenly at his home on March 27, aged 52.

Mr Miliband said: "He was the best of Labour, a fighter of equality, fairness and justice. From his career as a mental health nurse, to his service as a councillor and to his leadership of Sandwell Council. He was Labour through and through, with loyalty and passion for the party he loved and forces he fought for.

"I learnt through the course of our friendship that he was an outstanding council leader. At every local election as the years went by, Sandwell seemed to turn a deeper shade of red thanks to Darren and his leadership.

"Tributes have been paid to him across the political spectrum. He was an innovator and always talked to me about the ways in which the council could do things better to protect the front line and protect the people he came into politics to serve. He would always put the people of Sandwell first."

# Charity opens second shop in town

Mayor Angela Underhill, with volunteers, Sheena O'flaherty, left and Bernadette Paddock along with other guests

A CHARITY has opened its doors to a second shop in Darlaston, much to the delight of staff.

The Old Hall People's Partnership, a locally-based charity opened the new store in Leys Hall as part of their Pass It On Furniture Project.

The grand opening took place on April 12 when the mayor of Walsall, Councillor Angela Underhill, was in attendance.

It is now the second charity shop to be opened by the Old Hall partnership who also have one based in Bentley.

Denise Birkett, principal officer of the Old Hall People's Partnership, said the shop had been opened following requests from local people and statutory services.

"We opened it up to public to sell good quality affordable clothing and household goods in addition to the wide range of new and used furniture that it offers.

"It will complement the successful Pass It On Furniture Project and feedback we received after the official opening has been very positive, with over 70 people attending.

"We owe a huge thank you to our volunteers who worked tirelessly alongside her staff to ensure the shop was prepared and ready for the opening. It was also great for mayor to come along and show her support.

She added: "I am confident the shop will be a success and welcomed by the people of Darlaston."

The charity shop will be open to shop or drop off donations at on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays between 9am and 5pm.

The shop plans to increase its opening hours in the near future.

Money raised from the Old Hall People's Partnership charity shops will go towards supporting local community initiatives and services.

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Tile Choice is the largest independent tile retailer in the country and is well known for its industry-leading service, products and designs. Here is the firm's story, in its own words, of its rise to success.

**TILE Choice is celebrating its 25th anniversary in business this year.**

Established in 1991, Tile Choice quickly established an excellent reputation and impressive customer base, which saw the business expand rapidly across the local area and beyond.

Now boasting an impressive 16 individually designed stores throughout the West and East Midlands areas, the business continues to go from strength to strength.

Marketing director, Lee Rudkin said: "We pride ourselves on the excellent service and quality products we offer our customers. Every member of the Tile Choice team is expertly trained and able to help customers find the right products for them, as well as giving practical advice on how to plan and measure a room for tiling."

And it's this emphasis on staff training that really sets the company aside from the competition.

Mr Rudkin added: "The key to customer satisfaction is ensuring that our staff are trained in all aspects of the tile industry, so that they can properly advise the customer and meet their needs."

The company even employs mystery shoppers to visit their stores a couple of times a month to ensure that standards remain as high as possible.

Quality runs throughout the company and that's why clients can rest assured that they're buying excellent products, even though the prices are kept impressively low.

## Latest

"We buy direct from leading manufactures and because we buy in massive quantities we're able to keep prices low for our customers."

Tile Choice hold over £5million pounds worth of stock at their centralised 30,000 square foot warehouse and distribution centre.

"Clients can rest assured that we will never run out of stock and that we always have the most up-to-date choice of products."

The business work hard to stay ahead when it comes to trends and always ensure that their showrooms are packed with the latest designs.

Mr Rudkin said: "Porcelain wood-effect tiles are really popular at the moment as well as vintage-looking tiles with Victorian-inspired designs."

And the company's extensive and diverse ranges meet the needs of both domestic clients and the trade alike.

Tile Choice stock an extensive range of tools and tiling accessories, including well-known branded products, plus its own-brand adhesive tubs and bags, making a tiling job easy.

"We offer practical advice for those tiling themselves, but can also recommend local trusted trades who can complete the job if you prefer."

Customer orders are quickly dealt with via the company's warehouse, which offers support to stores, allowing customer orders to be picked out on the same-day and dispatched quickly nationwide.

"We have our own vehicle fleet to service stores on a daily basis, along with a customer delivery service that's available via every store."

The company's high standards have even been officially recognised in the industry.

"We have won awards three out of four years running at The Tile Association (TTA) awards, which is an excellent accolade in the industry."

Tile Choice also work closely with their local community, helping to raise money for charity and sponsoring Wolverhampton Rugby Club and Walsall Football Club.

"Giving something back to the local community is really important to us, we get involved with a lot of charity events and sponsor our local teams."

The business was even on hand to help out several local families who appeared on BBC's hit show DIY SOS, where they supplied tiles so that their home renovations could be completed by the show.

So, if you are looking for an up-to-the-minute design for your kitchen, bathroom or en-suite; a traditional style or contemporary design for your lounge, hallway or conservatory, Tile Choice will meet your every requirement at exceptional prices and with a bank holiday sale this weekend every tile has 50 per cent off until Monday May 2.

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# Pensioner's anger as clubs are stolen

**Brian Guest, aged 82, from Walsall, who had his golf clubs stolen from his garage while he chatted to his neighbour**

A PENSIONER has hit out at thieves who swiped his top-of-the range golf clubs from right under his nose.

Brian Guest, aged 82, had been talking with his neighbour at the front of his home before the pair made their way through Mr Guest's garage and into his back garden.

While they were out, thieves walked into his garage and stole the tailor-made clubs, worth thousands of pounds. Mr Guest, of Princes Avenue in Walsall, said: "We had just turned our back for a minute and the lady who does my cleaning came out to us, saying a neighbour had seen a lad go into the garage and walk out with my clubs. I went to check and they were all gone. We saw two shady looking characters walk past but didn't think much of it."

Mr Guest, a former member of the Calderfields golf club, said he had recently taken a break from playing due to health reasons but he intended to get back into it.

He said: "I used to love playing golf and I had been eager to get back into the game." He added that the clubs were top of the range. "I don't think whoever did this knows that," he said, "it was just an opportunity to steal something." Mr Guest also claims that burglary and theft is becoming a major issue for elderly residents in his area. He said: "This is such a nice part of Walsall but recently there have been a few break ins and now it feels like we are always watching our back."

# Retirement homes plan at print site is approved

**A FORMER print works in Walsall will be demolished and replaced by 35 homes. The former Millington York store on Leighswood Road in Aldridge will be replaced by a three-storey building for retirement homes.**

The site was bought by McCarthy and Stone who later received planning permission to demolish the works.

**By Jack Averty**

The developers, who have similar sites all across the Black Country and Staffordshire, expect it to be open in January next year, with the first homeowners moving in during May 2017.

Robert Monkman, the regional sales and marketing director at McCarthy and Stone West Midlands, said: "Construction is now underway at our forthcoming age-exclusive development in Aldridge, which will comprise 35 privately owned, one and two bedroom Retirement Living apartments aimed at people aged 60 and over. We expect to launch the development in January 2017 and look forward to welcoming our first homeowners in May 2017."

The sale of the property was arranged by property agent Bond Wolfe. The site had an asking price of £900,000 but the agent is declining to say how much the site was sold to McCarthy and Stone for.

Bond Wolfe managing partner James Mattin said: "The owner has retired, wound the business down and instructed us to sell the site. We had a lot of interest from residential developers as well as retailers. McCarthy & Stone are very successful and continue to grow their Midlands interests."

Facilities at the Leighswood Road development, located directly off the main A454 Aldridge bypass, will include a homeowner's lounge ideal for socialising with friends.

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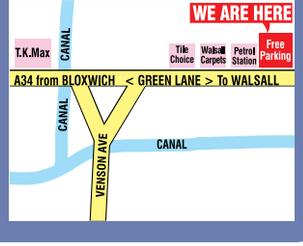

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# Signs of trouble for which way-&E?

**The missing directions on the sign. Picture: Corrie Halford**

SO whereabouts is Walsall's A&E department? If you were coming from the A4148 and to go the junction of Wolverhampton Road and Pleck Road then you would have a job finding it, thanks to a gap in a sign.

The sign on the junction shows drivers where to go for Walsall Station, the M6 and M5, Bescot Stadium, a park and ride car park and other options.

But no directions for the A&E department, which is just yards down Pleck Road.

The gap in the sign has been there since at least November 2015, where it is visible on Google Street View.

Pleck councillor Dennis Anson said: "We will need to put that right. I will ask the council to check it out and check the other signs in the ward.

"As a local resident I don't need to look at the signs but I can see how people coming from outside the borough such as Staffordshire would need directions."

# Leader says tax would need to rise by quarter

**COUNCIL tax in Walsall would have to increase by 25 per cent in order to cover Government cuts and costs to the authority, it has been claimed.**

Services are facing the axe as Walsall Council looks to make savings of £86 million over the next four years, with a council tax increase of 3.99 per cent already discussed.

**By Jordan Harris**

During a public services scrutiny committee meeting, council leader Mike Bird said times in the borough 'will only get harder' for residents, before making the admission that increasing council tax by a quarter would be the only way to start balancing the books to some degree.

He said: "We are the ones having to look at our finances every day and see what we can and can't afford to keep. We are doing the Government's dirty work here and it is not something I enjoy.

"However, we are legally obliged to put together a balanced budget. We have spoke about putting up council tax as a way of helping the situation a little but in order to cover the decreasing government cuts and our own increasing costs, we would have to up council tax by 25 per cent.

"People will not accept that, they will say that there are a number of services they don't benefit from so why should they pay for them. It is a sad situation and the truth is it is only going to get worse."

The discussion regarding council tax came about after the council's public services scrutiny committee were given a petition called 'Save Our Services', which had over 500 signatures.

It asked for the council to make a stand and refuse to make cuts in line with government funding decreases in order to maintain services some people are reliant on.

Councillor Bird said that he would take the petition to a meeting he has scheduled with the Secretary of State. He said: "I do accept your concerns in relation to this petition and I share them."

Councillor Lee Jeavons, added: "A flag waving exercise needs to be aimed at central government, not Walsall Council."

COMPETITION

# Serving up a really tasty show day out

GET ready for a warm welcome from the BBC Good Food Show Summer, sponsored by Lexus, from June 16-19.

The show returns to the NEC Birmingham, promising to be one of summer's tastiest days out. And 30 Chronicle readers have the chance to win a pair of tickets.

With many of the nation's favourite chefs and celebs, a wide range of local and regional artisan producers and everyone's favourite big name brands, there's something for everyone.

Highlights include:-

The Supertheatre – this will host a range of chefs and celebs including Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood, The Hairy Bikers, Tom Kerridge, Michel Roux Jr, James Martin and more. As a show first, Alan Titchmarsh will join Mary Berry in the Supertheatre on Friday for a home-grown extravaganza.

BBC Good Food Stage – this newest feature is sponsored by Lakeland and features a combination of celebrity interviews and recipe demos.

Discover and Learn by Lexus – an interactive feature consisting of three themed masterclasses which focus on different areas – cupcake decorating, sushi making and Taste Sensation.

Producers' Village – a huge speciality food market.

Ludlow Producers Market – fantastic collection of producers from Ludlow and the Marches.

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goodfood SHOW SUMMER

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# Appeal over indecent assault

AN appeal has been launched by the police after a man indecently exposed himself to an 11-year-old girl in Willenhall.

The offence took place on April 12 at Willenhall Memorial Park. The youngster was walking through the park at around 4.25pm when she saw the man expose himself and commit an indecent act. The man has been described as white, 5ft 6ins tall, with a beard.

At the time of the offence he was wearing a black jacket, light grey jogging bottoms and white trainers. He also had a Staffordshire Bull Terrier with a brass harness.

When the man attempted to approach the girl she ran off and the police were made aware straight away.

A 31-year-old man has been arrested in connection with the incident and released on bail pending further enquiries.

Anyone with any information regarding the incident should call Dc Emma Allen in Public Protection Unit on 101 or email contactus@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

# Businessman gets master honour for excellence in role

**A WALSALL man has been named master of the Worshipful Company of Loriners. John Nicholas Punch went to Queen Mary's Grammar School and has owned his own quantity and building surveying practice in Walsall since 1979.**

He was named Master Loriner earlier this year, with his installation taking place on January 21. The father-of-two has also been heavily involved with the Walsall Chamber of Commerce and, through it, Performance Through People, a national training company.

John said: "It's been brilliant. Not everybody gets the chance to be master. It's quite special because it's an opportunity and in the city it's very important. I've already done 24 or 25 events. Nobody does pageantry like the British – it's spectacular to see.

"We do things in the way that we've been doing them for years, so it feels like it's a real link to the history of England."

Rob Colbourne, Managing Director at the company said: "John Punch is a Walsall man through and through.

John Nicholas Punch, with Thomas DC Lloyd OBE, West Midlands Deputy Lieutenant

## Supportive

"He went to Queen Mary's school and stayed in the area afterwards. He joined the board of governors at the school and has just named a room after him for the work he's done there.

"He's chairman of Performance Through People and has been very supportive of the Ladder for the Black Country initiative, which helps give local young people the opportunity to prosper through apprenticeships.

"A lot of important people have been Chief Loriner before and most of them have been from London. I think for a businessman from Walsall to rise to this position is testament to what he's been able to do."

Loriners were the people who made and sold bits, bridles, spurs, stirrups, saddle trees and the minor metal items of a horse's harness.

The Company's first Ordinances were granted in 1261, earlier than those of any other craft.

Cyclist Andy Tennant at Staffordshire Cycle Festival

Wolverhampton Wheelers training on their 125th Anniversary

Club members taking part in a fancy dress parade in 1893

Club president Robin Kyte

# Wheels just keep on turning as club members never tire

**THEY first saddled up in a pub in 1891 and they are still going strong 125 years later.**

## MEMORY LANE

By John Scott

The Wolverhampton Wheelers Cycling Club has almost 500 members aged five to 90 – and is healthier today than at any stage in its illustrious history.

Robin Kyte, its president and a member for 50 years after joining aged 11, said: "When I was young you were regarded as being a bit weird if you were interested in cycling.

"But, since the Beijing and London Olympics and the British success in the Tour de France, the interest in cycling has exploded. Sales of bikes have gone through the roof.

British cycling star Andy Tennant – who won silver and bronze medals in last month's World Indoor Championships and rides for the team of Tour de France winner Bradley Wiggins – led the anniversary plaudits for the club he joined at the age of 14. The 29-year-old, from Wolverhampton, said: "I would not be where I am today without the Wheelers. I owe them a great deal.

"My mate and I went to an exhibition illustrating the sports on offer at the Aldersley Leisure Village and took part in a mock mountain bike race. I finished last – which was a common occurance at the start of my cycling career. But I enjoyed it and joined the Wheelers.

"It was the enthusiasm of Robin Kyte and others that got me hooked on the sport. It is a fantastic club with great facilities. There are very few cycling clubs that have access to a velodrome and they make the most of it. I was rubbish at the beginning. I was a fat lad who enjoyed his biscuits. But I am the only member of the club ever to have won the Best Trier award three years in a row."

By 2005 he was good enough to be selected for the British cycling development programme and has never looked back.

Sam Anslow is among the scores of schoolchildren who dream of following in the star's tyre tracks.

### Inspiration

The 13-year-old from Gornal – a pupil at Ellowes Hall Sports College – joined the Wheelers three years ago and said: "I know of Andy Tennant and he is a real inspiration."

At the other end of the age scale is its oldest active member, Ron Aspey, who joined the Wheelers 68 years ago. He is now 90, still rides 10 miles every Thursday with other veterans from the club and has no plans to stop any time soon.

The Wheelers – a diminution of the cycling term 'wheelmen' – held its first meeting in Wolverhampton's Talbot Hotel in March 1891 and restricted membership to 30 people.

The inaugural official ride came two months later and took the cyclists to Boscobel House in Bishops Wood. The anniversary will be celebrated with a 'family ride' for current members on Sunday, May 15.

The club held a one-mile penny-farthing race around a flat cinder track in the Molineux grounds until the 1900s – long before it became the home ground of Wolves. But they were soon overtaken in the popularity stakes by the safety bike – sporting two wheels of equal size and a chain drive to the rear wheel.

The club survived as a group of friends during the First World War but reaffiliated to the National Cyclist Union in 1924 before expanding the membership further when women were allowed to join 12 years later.

Competition was restricted to individual time trials ridden against the clock/ But former Wolverhampton Wheeler Percy Stallard broke the mould when he organised the first massed race in this country – from Llangollen to Wolverhampton, in June 1942.

He was one of several big names to have belonged to the Wheelers. Other big-name former members include the late Bob Thom, a successful international rider and England team manager, and Hugh Porter, who won four individual pursuit world titles and a Commonwealth Games gold medal.

Attire and bike in the early 1900s

# Show ready to roll to help charities

Russell Eynon, front, with Sean Coughlan, Steven Kelly and Harry Constable preparing for Willenhall Transport Show

BUSINESSMAN Harry Constable will be holding the first Willenhall Transport Show in an effort to raise money for local charities on Sunday, June 12.

The show will see a whole host of vehicles with organisers saying 'as long as it has a wheel and a piston it's welcome'. With the event coming the day after Willenhall Festival, Mr Constable is hoping to welcome more than 500 people to the first show 'to raise as much as possible'.

Due to the interest in the event, Mr Constable believes that they should fill at least three of the fields on Willenhall Memorial Park where the event is being held. Since the demise of the Sandwell Car Show two years ago, there has been something of a void that Mr Constable is more than happy to fill in order to bring transport shows back to the area.

With some people offering 'to push their vehicles to their event if they aren't finished, the pride and passion for classic cars is evident for all to see', says Mr Constable. Alongside the classic cars, buses and lorries there will also be entertainment throughout the day from Signal Radio presenter Neil Jackson. If the wide range of classic cars isn't tempting enough, the prospect of a Volkswagen beer bus and a DeLorean – the car which starred alongside Michael J Fox in Back To The Future – will be big draws.

As well as Mr Constable the event is being set up by Councillor Sean Coughlan, estate agent Steven Kelly and accountant Russell Eynon.

Tickets are not yet on sale – however under-12s will go free with a £3 admission charge for everyone else.

Anyone interested in showcasing their pride and joy can contact one of the organisers via their facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/WillenhallTransports

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Aldridge Fireplaces is a family- owned business with the emphasis on a relaxed, personal service and offers a unique service on all suites and packages. The stylish showroom features some exclusive marble and Portuguese limestone displays, solid wood and stone surrounds. Co-director Dan Pennell adds: "It's been really positive, after the company was voted the most-loved freplace company in the UK via the 'best of' website. We're really pleased with the award and could not have won it without all the positive feedback of our customers."

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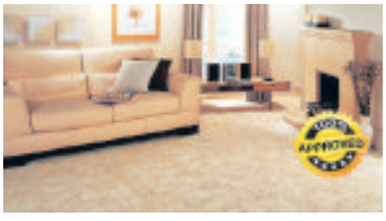

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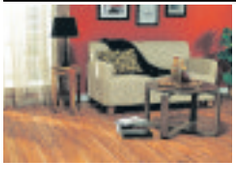

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# Court puts brakes on highway menace

**STREET racers are being warned they could lose their car, their job or even their liberty if they take part in a car cruise in the Black Country.**

An injunction is in force banning people from taking part in a car cruise anywhere within the four Black Country boroughs – Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton – or from promoting, organising or publicising such an event.

The injunction defines car cruising as the act of drivers meeting on the public highway on an organised or impromptu basis to race or show off in their cars, and anyone breaching it risks being in contempt of court, for which they could face up to two years in prison and a fine.

To date, 11 people have been convicted of breaching the injunction and have received suspended prison sentences and ordered to pay costs.

Police can also take action against individuals for traffic offences including driving without due care and attention, driving without insurance – no insurance policy covers illegal street racing – or driving an unroadworthy vehicle.

The injunction was introduced last year to tackle the menace of car cruising, which was blighting the lives of residents and having a detrimental impact on businesses throughout the region. And it has had an instant impact, with police and councils reporting a significant reduction in car cruising across the Black Country, and the problem being eliminated altogether in many areas. The injunction prohibits a number of activities and consequences typically associated with car cruising, including speeding, racing or driving in convoy, performing stunts, obstructing the highway, excessive noise, and causing the risk of harm to people or property.

*The injunction also prohibits car cruise gatherings like this, in a supermarket car park*

*CCTV footage captured car cruising taking place*

*Ground-breaking – car cruising is banned in the Black Country*

Chief Inspector Jed White from West Midlands Police's Motorway Policing unit said: "Street racing is completely unacceptable and we will not tolerate it.

"People who think about taking part in a car cruise – whether as a driver, passenger or even spectator – should be very clear about the likely consequences.

"The same applies to people who either organise a car cruise or actively promote it.

"Anyone who is convicted of contempt of court by breaching the injunction could face jail or be hit with a large fine.

"At the same time, by committing traffic offences they could be banned from driving or have their car seized."

The four Black Country councils and West Midlands Police secured the ground-breaking injunction after receiving hundreds of complaints about car cruising from residents and businesses over a number of years.

They ranged from complaints about dangerous driving, speeding and vehicles and spectators obstructing highways or residential or business properties, to excessive noise, littering, verbal abuse and intimidation.

There has been a significant reduction in car cruising activity across the Black Country since the injunction came into force, and Chief Insp White added: "The injunction enables us, together with our partners, to continue to tackle those individuals who flout the laws of the road and pose a danger for innocent members of the public."

● For more information about the injunction, please visit http://bit.ly/carcruisingban. Incidents of car cruising should be reported to West Midlands Police on 101. In an emergency, always dial 999.

## Injunction details

**1** It is forbidden for anyone to participate in "car cruising" (as defined in the schedule below) anywhere within the claimants' combined geographical area known locally as the Black Country Area.

**2** It is also forbidden for anyone to promote, organise, or publicise via e-mail, the internet or any publication or broadcast, any "car cruising" within the defined geographical area.

**3** A power of arrest pursuant to section 27 Police and Criminal Justice Act 2006 shall apply to clause 1 above.

**4** The order and power of arrest shall continue for 3 years following the commencement of this order or until it is varied or discharged by the court. This order shall come into effect at midnight on 2 February 2015 provided that the Claimants have completed certain steps. It shall, subject to further order, expire at midnight 1 February 2018.

**5** Personal service of this injunction is dispensed with pursuant to rule 81.8 of the Civil Procedure Rules.

**Schedule**

**1** "Car Cruising" means two or more motor vehicles (including motorbikes) between the hours of 3pm and 7am being on a highway or in a publicly accessible place within the Black Country Area at which any such vehicle or occupant of a vehicle performs any of the prohibited activities listed in clause 3 below which causes, or is capable of causing, any of the prohibited consequences set out in clause 4 below.

**2** "Participating in car cruising" means being the driver of, or being carried in (or on), a motor vehicle (including motorbikes) in circumstances in which paragraph 1 above applies.

**3** The prohibited activities referred to in clause 1 above are: speeding; driving in convoy; racing; performing stunts; sounding horns/playing music as to cause a significant public nuisance; using foul or abusive language; using threatening, intimidating behaviour towards another person; and causing obstruction on a public highway, whether moving or stationary.

**4** The prohibited consequences referred to in clause 1 above are: excessive noise; danger or risk of injury to road users (including pedestrians); damage or significant risk of damage to property; significant risk of harm; significant public nuisance; and significant annoyance to the public.

● The full injunction and map showing the geographical area is available at http://bit.ly/carcruisingban and council offices.

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Walsall Council
City of Wolverhampton Council

Men at work in the company's hammers room

An entrance to the factory site at Edgemead Trade Centre

Tools were manufactured under the world-renowned brand for nearly a century

# Hedgehog Tools site is flattened

Factory buildings associated with a world-famous name have gone from the skyline. **CARL JACKSON** reports

**IT was the beating industrial heart of Bridgtown, near Walsall, creating tools under the world-renowned brand Cornelius Whitehouse & Sons for nearly a century.**

But bulldozers have now moved onto the site at Edgemead Trade Centre in Walsall Road, to knock the units to the ground, making way for around 40 new homes.

Despite the tool manufacturer, with its iconic hedgehog logo, once employing more than 300 people, the warehouses have been derelict since it closed in 1964, albeit with the occasional small business moving in to try and make use of some of the space. Last month, Cannock Chase Council approved plans to demolish the old buildings and create 24 houses and 15 apartments.

Derrick Middleton, from Bridgtown and District Local History Society, explained the significance of the former Whitehouse works. He said: "Bridgtown was created because of its industry, one of which was the Whitehouse site.

"Bridgtown was successful because it was right on the canal and the railway," he added. "Cornelius passed the business on, and it went from strength to strength, and grew internationally. At its height, I would say, it employed 300 to 400 people.

"But like many other industries, it suffered because of cheaper imports," Mr Middleton said. "Foreign companies could make an axe, not to the same quality, but for a much cheaper price."

Despite the fact that the buildings were bulldozed last week, signalling the end of an icon from Bridgtown's booming past, the history society has welcomed the new development. Mr Middleton said: "As far as we are concerned, the buildings have no historical importance.

"The major challenge is ensuring the 100 years are properly recorded and its place in world trade was reflected."

He said that talks were under way with Leicestershire-based applicant Galliford Try with a view to incorporating an information board within the new development as part of a Bridgtown heritage trail to explain the history of the Whitehouse works – possibly inspired by its Hedgehog brand.

Mr Middleton added: "The hedgehog was the company logo but many people referred to it as Hedgehog Tools.

"Now some of the tools fetch as much as £100 online but it depends if the hedgehog markings are clear or not."

The old Cornelius Whitehouse & Sons factory off Walsall Road, is now a pile of rubble

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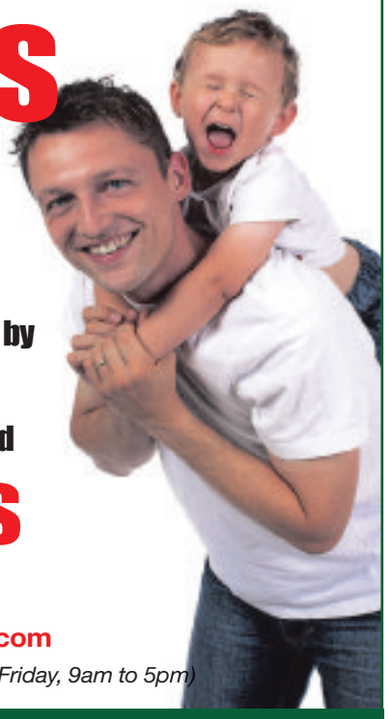

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# Knockout sounds by Boxer Rebellion

## ALBUMS

By Leon Burakowski

**LONDON band The Boxer Rebellion have been around since 2001, paying their dues, and now album number five, Ocean By Ocean, should pay some dividends.**

It's the absolute epitome of mature, meditative, mellow rock which can appeal to fans of Coldplay, Keane, Editors and The Script.

American frontman Nathan Nicholson's vocals, which rise to a falsetto, perfectly match emotional songs that have been well-crafted. Highlights include Firework, Keep Me Close and Redemption.

You can catch them in concert on Thursday, May 5, at the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath, Birmingham, a very intimate venue for a band that could (and probably should) be playing stadia.

Mancunian trio **Man Made**, fronted by Nile Marr (son of former Smiths guitarist Johnny), make a decent if underwhelming debut with **TV Broke My Brain**.

It's jangly and shuffles along nicely, Nile is a decent singer and from live accounts more of a showman than his dad. It all smoulders nicely, especially recent single Raining In My Head and You Never Know How It Feels, without ever really igniting.

Winners of the Glastonbury Festival's Emerging Talent contest, **She Drew The Gun** are a Merseyside outfit fronted by singer-songwriter Louisa Roach.

Their debut album produced by The Coral's James Skelly, **Memories of the Future**, finds them adept at a moody, languid style of psych rock, with Roach at some point between Lana Del Rey and Polly Harvey.

The Boxer Rebellion – Ocean By Ocean is mature, meditative, mellow rock

Key tracks include pounding rocker Pit Pony and the Portishead-like What Will You Do and the angry Poem.

You can catch them locally before they play Glastonbury with a gig at Birmingham city centre's Sunflower Lounge on Saturday.

**Misty Miller** is a 21-year-old force of nature, a riot girl whose feisty debut **The Whole Family Is Worried** is raw yet melodic rock that's well worth checking out if you like such as Wolf Alice and/or Florence + The Machine.

### Accessible

Drawing upon the likes of Courtney Love and Chrissie Hynde, Miller's autobiographical songs draw on classic hard rock with a punky snarl on songs such as Happy, Stars and latest single Girlfriend, whilst Devil is almost a folk ballad.

Surrealist art rockers from New York, **Yeasayer**, are surprisingly accessible on their new album **Amen & Goodbye** an enjoyable blend of styles on songs with all sorts of esoteric subject matter.

Highlights include I Am Chemistry featuring folk singer Suzzy Roche and the Afro pop influenced Silly Me. File Yeasayer's album next works by Mercury Rev and MGMT.

Various artists album **Just Great Songs 2016**, which pulls together 40 hits from over the past 12 months, is positive proof that clubland floor fodder and R&B-lite has pretty much taken over the chart.

There are several perfectly fine pop songs, such as Justin Bieber's Love Yourself and One Direction's History, and Elle King's retro Ex's & Oh's (appropriate apostrophe lesson required).

But there is too much beat-driven blandness with singers who sound liked they've been autotuned.

Even the usually reliable Paloma Faith, Olly Murs and Laura Mvula are represented by their lesser songs.

I reckon only two of these tracks will still be getting airplay in ten years' time, Hozier's Take Me To Church and George Ezra with Blame It On Me.

As a snapshot of pop in 2016, Just Mediocre may have been a more accurate title.

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The Chronicle Thursday, April 28, 2016

Happier times in 2001: Ali on stage with UB40 in Birmingham

The original UB40 from 1983 with Ali on the right holding a glass of red, red wine

Ali's brother Duncan fronts the other version of UB40

# Ali's UB40 mission

**GETTING the opportunity to interview one of the biggest names in reggae music was always going to be interesting, heightened only by the fact that our subject for the afternoon is one of Birmingham's very own.**

Not only is Ali Campbell still singing his former band's hits (we say former – it's complicated, as we'll explain), but he's also embroiled in a High Court battle with his brothers Robin and Duncan. It's like a reggae soap opera.

Having initially devised the idea for a band standing at a bus stop, Ali Campbell now finds himself sitting on top of a legacy of sales figures that push well past the 100 million mark, and a couple of UK number ones to boot. But now in 2016, having left the band in 2008, the climate that Ali finds himself in is much different.

As the vocalist for reggae stars UB40, Ali was part of the sound and face of a band that dominated the 80s and became a voice for the voiceless with their rebel music around the world. But the rights to the band's name are not his – they belong to his brothers, who still tour under the UB40 name. We told you it was complicated.

Now he's in the differently branded UB40 featuring Ali Campbell, Astro and Mickey Virtue. It's a sore subject, one that has taken Ali through the courts. He's not quiet about it either.

Ali Campbell, who says he is trying to save the legacy of UB40, pictured left, with band mates Astro and keyboard player Mickey Virtue

## Positive

But first, we want to know what the second city's reggae son has been up to during his years away from the 'old' UB40.

"We've just come back from New Zealand actually, and it was one of the best tours we've ever done," Ali explains, the pleasure notable in his voice. "A couple of years ago, I got the idea to do a Red Red Wine vineyard tour, where we play a selection of vineyards around a country. I thought it was a funny pun and the promoters love a gag to hang a tour on, so we finally got it together and played seven different vineyards around New Zealand. They were all in beautiful locations.

"We've been to the Hawaiian Islands as well, and it really doesn't get much better than that."

We shake the images of lounging on a beach out of our heads, and quiz Ali about his band's upcoming UK tour. There is a date in Birmingham on Sunday, May 1, at the Barclaycard Arena. Are they looking forward to hitting the road again?

"Well we haven't really been off the road yet! Since Astro came back we've been solidly on the road for two and a half years. We've been selling out gigs all over New Zealand and Hawaii and then we've come home and found out we've more or less sold out these arena shows back in the UK! We're really chuffed."

Ali, trumpeter Astro and keyboardist Mickey Virtue all hail from Birmingham, and the city still holds a special place in their heart.

Ali said: "I can't wait to play in Brum again, the last time we played there was at the NIA and the love from the audience was wicked, truly incredible. Me and Astro were quite shocked, the place was bouncing like a tub filled with grasshoppers and the noise we got from the crowd was lovely, it really was. Especially after the big fight that I've had on my hands."

The fight, he tells us, has been with the 'other' UB40. Though his voice is warm when he reminisces about his time in the city, it is less so when he talks about the other band touring under the UB40 brand.

"The dark side as I like to call them, all they've done is successfully split our fan base in half. For a while there was a lot of confusion and people didn't know what was going on. But since Astro joined me and we started doing all the old UB40 songs and stuff, it's been brilliant. It couldn't have gone any better really."

He's talking about his old bandmates who, fronted by his brother Duncan, have gone on to use the UB40 name on their tours.

The two bands have been embroiled in a battle over naming rights for years and were in the High Court only weeks ago.

Ali's brothers, plus James Brown, Norman Hassan, Brian Travers and Earl Falconer insist that Ali's band has no right to use the UB40 name in any form. They want an injunction and damages against Ali and his bandmates.

The court has now reserved its decision on the case and will give its ruling at a later date.

"The thing is, I wasn't calling myself UB40 until Astro came and re-joined me in 2008," said Ali. "Before then I didn't feel as though I had the right to call myself UB40, but with Astro and later Mickey we had three original members. I felt as though I had to save the legacy of the band because what the dark side are doing is destroying it."

## Identity

They're strong words flowing from the mouth of a man who certainly seems to have a bitter dislike towards his former band, and at times it makes for uncomfortable listening. But his reasoning shows that his strong views aren't just the by-product of a tit-for-tat argument, but are woven into a strong sense of identity, and what he thinks UB40 should be.

"I don't know if you've seen any of their shows, but they're knuckle-bitingly embarrassing. And I've been watching those shows and listened to their 'country' album, and when Astro came over I thought sod it, I'm going to try and save the legacy of UB40. It was my band, and one of the biggest reggae bands in the world, and the dark side are doing country music.

"It felt like a slap in the face both to me and the fans."

Because of this, Ali felt like it was important to carry on performing the tunes that elevated the band to legendary status, but on his own terms.

"I've never, ever gone out on tour without letting people know which UB40 we are. That's why we always say featuring Ali, Astro and Mickey. Which is something that the other band don't do – they don't let fans know that it isn't the original line-up."

The issue of confusing the two different bands reached a fever pitch in April 2014 when both were booked to play different venues in Dubai on the same day. Ali made the swift decision to change the name of his band to UB40 Reunited, to both avoid confusion and the potential legal action that would follow. But ever since, he's been glad to distance himself from his old band.

"They're the ones that are confusing everybody, we don't want to be mistaken for them. Because they're so bad."

We place ourselves into the shoes of a UB40 mega-fan, and imagine with a twinge of sadness what it must be like to see the rift that has grown between Ali and his former bandmates. What would Ali say to fans that couldn't decide on which version to go and see?

"Us squabbling means nothing, it's all about the music. I think fans can make up their own minds. They can listen to my album, 2014's Silhouette, and the dark side's album 2013's Getting Over The Storm and they can make a choice in that respect.

"But also with the live stuff, they can come and see me and Astro who are the original singers, or Duncan, Ali's brother, who replaced Ali when he left the band and whoever else."

We wonder about the time when Ali left originally, and how he must have felt. Being one of the founder members, we imagine leaving your own musical baby in the hands of others would be an upsetting experience, and so too the prospect of performing solo.

Ali tells us more: "Of course I was nervous, I was leaving my own band. I paid for the instruments when we first got together and in 2008 I felt that I was forced into leaving."

But he added: "The other band are playing pubs whilst we're touring around the world, selling out shows and smashing it."

**UB40 Featuring Ali Campbell, Astro and Mickey will be playing at the Barclaycard Arena on Sunday, May 1. Visit www.theticketfactory.com or call 0844 33 88 222.**

**STEVEN ECOTT**

Made In Dagenham cast including Tasheka Coe and Sally Pugh

Duncan James and the cast of Priscilla Queen of the Desert

A scene from the production of The Hare and the Tortoise

The highly-innovative Artsfest logo

A scene from Don Giavanni by the English Touring Opera

# Jam-packed line-up

**PLANS for a seven-week long arts festival to be staged across Wolverhampton, Walsall and Stafford have been released.**

The University of Wolverhampton launched Artsfest for the first time last year and the festival will return next month featuring more than 100 separate events.

These will include dance, theatre and musical performances, art exhibitions, workshops and educational sessions for schools and college groups. Visitors to Wolverhampton will have the chance to explore backstage at the Grand Theatre and learn about the venue's history of more than 120 years.

Musicals at the iconic venue will include Priscilla Queen of the Desert starring Blue's Duncan James which will begin on May 2 – the opening day of Artsfest – and run until May 7.

West Bromwich Operatic Society's production of Made In Dagenham will see local talent on a professional stage from May 24, and Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show will run from June 13.

Operas include English Touring Opera's Iphigenie en Tauride which will be performed on May 9 and Don Giobanni on May 10. Then, on June 6 ,there will be comedy from Joe Lycett and Aisling Bea and others at the Hilarity Charity Gala raising funds for the Central Youth Theatre.

Dance offerings include Northern Ballet's Jane Eyre and for children there will be Hare and the Tortoise on June 11.

There is also an adaptation of Pinocchio by StarDam Productions on June 1.Grand Theatre marketing Manager, Scott Bird said: "Artsfest is the perfect opportunity to remind people what a great city Wolverhampton is."

Visit www.wlv.ac.uk/artsfest

Duncan James, starring in Priscilla Queen of the Desert

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# All aboard with Priscilla

## No auditorium Deserted for ex-Blue star Duncan

See Page 29

## Father Ken

New show – Page 29

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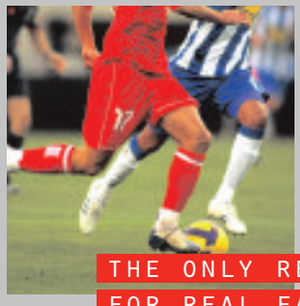
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## UB40 feat. Ali, Astro and Mickey

Sunday, time tbc
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A seemingly never-ending rift in the top reggae band's camp is being settled in court, but this version features the original singer – expect the hits at this homecoming gig.
Visit **www.barclaycardarena.co.uk**

## Bad Jews

Tuesday to Saturday
New Alex Theatre, B'ham
Joshua Harmon's hard-hitting and provocative New York comedy looks at the squabble between the young members of a Jewish-American family over who should inherit a family heirloom.
Visit **www.atgtickets.com**

## Bryan Adams

Saturday, 6pm
Genting Arena, NEC, B'ham
The multi-platinum selling Canadian rocker (and acclaimed photographer) brings The Get Up Tour to Brum following the release of his 13th album, which was produced by Jeff Lynne.
Visit **www.gentingarena.co.uk**

## Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds

Friday, 6pm
Genting Arena, NEC, B'ham
Expect songs from latest album Chasing Yesterday and the self-titled debut, plus several Oasis favourites from the surly rock genius. Welsh mavericks Super Furry Animals support.
Visit **www.gentingarena.co.uk**

## ROCK & POP

**The Bluetones**
Tue at 7pm - 11pm, £21
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

**Showaddywaddy**
Tonight at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

**Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds**
Tonight at 6pm,
Genting Arena, Birmingham,
B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

**Big Girls Don't Cry: A Tribute To Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons**
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, Staffordshire,
WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

**Fudgestock 2016**
Mon at 4pm - 11pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

**Creedence Clearwater Reviewed**
Thu at 8.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

**Dementia Awareness Fest 2016**
Sun at 3pm,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton,
B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

**World Service Project**
Thu at 8.30pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

**This Will Destroy You**
Tonight at 7pm,
The Rainbow, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

**Benjamin Francis Leftwich**
Thu at 7pm,
The Rainbow, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

**The Boxer Rebellion**
Thu at 7.30pm,
Hare & Hounds, Birmingham,
B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

**Michael Bolton**
Sun at 7.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

**Chris Cornell**
Mon at 7pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

**Bryan Adams**
Tomorrow at 6.30pm,
Genting Arena, Birmingham,
B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

**Anastacia**
Tue at 7pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

**An Evening With Mark Lanegan**
Mon at 7pm - 10.30pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

**Boy Jumps Ship**
Thu at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

**Bon Giovi: Bon Jovi Tribute**
Tonight at 7.30pm, £8
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

**Rat Boy**
Thu at 7pm, £8
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

**Dixie Chicks**
Tonight at 7.30pm, £49.20
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham,
B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

## JAZZ, FOLK & BLUES

**Richard Digance**
Thu at 7.30pm, £16.25
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, Staffordshire,
WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

**Nina Nesbitt**
Wed at 7pm,
The Institute, Birmingham,
B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

**Daniel Champagne**
Tue at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

## CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

**Thomas Trotter In Recital**
Wed at 7.30pm - 9.30pm, £9.50 - £25
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

**Caroline Modiba**
Tue at 1.05pm - 2pm,
Birmingham Conservatoire,
Birmingham City University,
B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

**The Andrew Downes Performance Prize**
Tonight at 7pm - 9pm,
Birmingham Conservatoire,
Birmingham City University,
B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

**American Song Prize**
Wed at 7pm - 9pm,
Birmingham Conservatoire,
Birmingham City University,
B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

**Full 100 2016! With Tarrus Riley**
Sun at 9pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

**UB40 – Ali Campbell, Astro and Mickey**
Sun at 6.30pm, £30
Barclaycard Arena,
Birmingham,
B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

**City Of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra**
Thu at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

**David Rodigan**
Tonight - Tomorrow at 9pm - 3am,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

**The Loft Party**
Sat - Sun at 9pm - 3am,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

**Do Not Sleep**
Sun - Mon at 2pm - 12am,
The Rainbow, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

**Joe Goddard**
Sun - Mon at 9pm - 3am,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

## COMEDY

**Debra Stephenson: Night Of One Hundred Voices**
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

**Thursday Night Comedy Carousel**
Thu at 7pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

**Jonny And The Baptists: The End Is Nigh**
Wed at 8pm,
mac, Birmingham,
B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

**Stand Up For The Heroes 2016**
Sun at 6.30pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

**Russell Kane: Right Man, Wrong Age**
Tomorrow at 8pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

## TALKS

Shakespeare At The REP
Thu at 12pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

**Psychic Sally: Call Me Psychic**
Tue at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre,
Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

**Spotlight – After Anger: John Osborne & British Theatre Today**
Wed at 6.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

**Artforum**
Wed at 4.30pm - 6.30pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

**Young Artists**
Tomorrow at 1pm - 3pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

**The Director's Role In Leading The Organisation**
Wed at 9.30am - 5pm, Thu at 9.30am - 5pm,
Library of Birmingham, B1 2ND.
Call 0121 303 4511

## THEATRE

**The Father**
Tue at 7pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

**Priscilla Queen Of The Desert**
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

**The Carpenters Story**
Tonight at 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

**A Night Of Dirty Dancing**
Thu at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre,
Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

**Kidderminster Rose Young People's Theatre: Red**
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre,
Broadwaters, Kidderminster,
DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

**Experiential Dance: Bridging The Void**
Wed at 7.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

**F(L)IGHT**
Tue at 7.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

**Swansea City Opera: La Boheme**
Wed at 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

**Isle Of Woman**
Tomorrow at 8pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

**Monty Python's Spamalot**
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

**Arabian Nights...And Days**
Thu at 8pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

**Boldtext's Eurotrashed – 8 Short EU Referendum Plays**
Tue at 8pm - 9.30pm, Wed at 8pm - 9.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

**Calling For Help!**
Tonight at 8pm,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Flare Path
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2pm, 7.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

**Dial M For Murder**
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

**Folk**
Tonight at 7.45pm, Tomorrow at 7.45pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

**KFA: Elements Of Dance**
Tomorrow at 2pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

# Duncan delighted that life's a drag

**FROM boy band hunk to drag queen — Duncan James is barely recognisable in his latest stage role.**

The tattooed star of Blue could hardly look any more camp donned in bright platform shoes and a dress made of pink and yellow flip-flops.

Starring as Tick in hit musical Priscilla Queen of the Desert, he will be at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre for a six-day run from Monday.

As one of four members of pop band Blue, James sold more than 16 million records and is sure to draw crowds from across the Black Country.

As Tick and his alter ego drag queen Mitzi, James will be stepping into the frocks previously worn by the likes of Jason Donovan and Darren Day.

## Aussie

Priscilla Queen of the Desert is based on the 1994 Australian film, The Adventures of Priscilla: Queen of the Desert, and follows the journey of two drag queens and a transsexual woman as they travel across the Aussie outback. On the road the trio meet a variety of characters and have to deal with a whole host of difficult situations including homophobic abuse and facing up to their pasts.

The action is accompanied on stage by a dazzling array of outrageous costumes and a hit parade of dancefloor favourites including Say a Little Prayer, Go West, Hot Stuff and Always on My Mind.

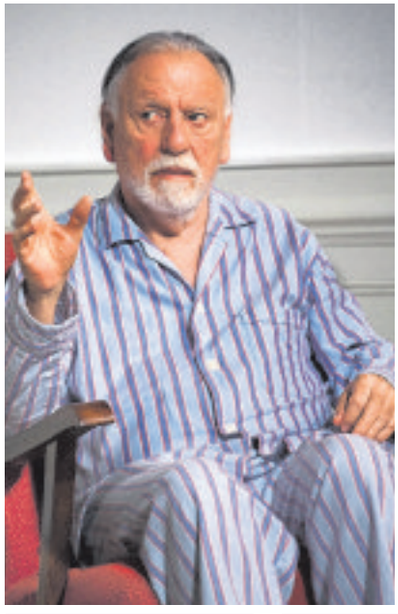
Joining James in the lead roles are Simon Green as Bernadette and Adam Bailey as Felicia.

After recently taken a break from the show, James tweeted: "Feels so strange to be on stage in Priscilla after having five weeks off! It's a weird feeling but finding my feet again – or should I say heels. It's going to be fabulous."

During winter 2014-15 the hunky singer, who had three number one albums and 40 number one singles worldwide with Blue, starred as Jack in the pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk at Birmingham Hippodrome. He is also known for appearing on the 2007 series of Dancing on Ice.

Book at www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429 212.

Duncan James is joined by his character Tick's drag queen alter ego Mitzi



# Actor back in winning role

ONE of the most highly acclaimed new plays of the decade is coming to Birmingham Rep in the production that won Kenneth Cranham the Olivier Award for best actor this year.

Following an acclaimed run in London, the veteran actor will return to the role that saw him take theatreland's most celebrated prize.

The Father will be staged at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, May 7.

The play was written by French playwright Florian Zeller and received an unprecedented ten five-star reviews from national newspaper theatre critics.

The crisp and witty translation by Christopher Hampton of this intriguing and compelling drama sees Cranham reprise his unforgettable performance as Andre, and is joined by Amanda Drew, as his daughter Anne.

The character is an 80-year-old former tap dancer, or was he an engineer? The thing is, he is still wearing his pyjamas, can't find his watch, and is starting to wonder if he's losing control.

Cranham's many credits includes major roles in the West End and on Broadway, TV including Shine On Harvey Moon, Rome, The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, and films ranging from Chocolat and Made In Dagenham to Hellbound: Hellraiser II.

Performances are at 7pm on Tuesday and at 7.30pm from Wednesday to Saturday with matinees on Thursday and Saturday. Tickets start at £13.50 and can be bought by calling 0121 236 4455 or visiting birmingham-rep.co.uk website.

## Country stars are on the way to Brum

THERE are major musical highlights coming up for country music fans. Tonight (Friday) the Dixie Chicks bring their Taking The Long Way tour to the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham. With over 30 million albums sold, they are the biggest female band of all time in the US.

America's new star Brantley Gilbert, who has had double platinum albums with Halfway to Heaven and Just As I Am, will be playing Birmingham O2 Institute next Saturday, May 7.

Tomorrow (Saturday) catch four acts for £4 when the Emma Swindells Band are joined by Holloway Road, Chloe Chadwick and Gary O'Dea at Bantock House in Wolverhampton.

## Slam dunk fun with the Globetrotters

THERE will be lots of slam dunk fun at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on Saturday when the Harlem Globetrotters celebrate 90 years of basketball trick-shot entertainment.

The latest generation features Big Easy Lofton, Ant Atkinson, Hi-Lite Bruton, Thunder Law, Bull Bullard and Cheese Chisholm plus female stars TNT Maddox and Sweet J Ekworomadu.

Expect ball wizardry and amazing rim-rattling shots, plus lots of comedy in a show for all the family. Arena doors open at 6.30pm and the pre-game warm up starts at 7.10pm.

## Fudgestock in return to Robin 2

A MUSIC festival which raises money for Macmillan Cancer Support will take place at Bilston's Robin 2 on Bank Holiday Monday.

Fudgestock returns to the venue and will feature Bethan & The Morgans, Craig Pate, Dead Sea Skulls, Electus, Mike Surman, Phoenix Rising and The Father Teds.

The event is being held in memory of Bill Edis, who was a sound engineer at the Robin 2 and died in November last year, aged 44. A charity auction will also take place during the event.

Tickets are £5 advance and £6 on the door. Doors open 4pm. Call box office on 01902 401211.

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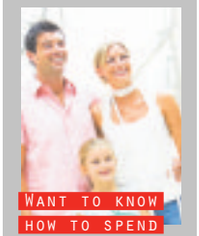

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## CHOICE

Rod Stewart

**Michael McIntyre's Big Show (BBC1, 7.05pm)**
The comedian hosts another evening of entertainment at London's Theatre Royal on Drury Lane. This time he invites music industry veteran Rod Stewart and pop-rock singer James Morrison to perform, along with Extreme Flamenco fusion dancers, Los Vivancos, and comedian Romesh Ranganathan. The host also hijacks Dragons' Den star Peter Jones' mobile phone in Celebrity Send To All, which sees him fire off an embarrassing message to all the contacts in Jones' directory, and makes dreams come true for an unsuspecting electrician in Unexpected Star.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** MasterChef. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening semi-final is set to reach a conclusion. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.25** Can't Touch This. With presenters Zoe Ball and Ashley Banjo.

**6.15 Pointless Celebrities.** Keith Chegwin and Iain Lee, Lisa Maxwell and Rav Wilding, Anthony Costa and Michelle Heaton and Helen Lederer and Nicholas Parsons compete in the celebrity quiz show. With hosts Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman.

**7.05 Michael McIntyre's Big Show.** The comedian hosts another evening of entertainment at London's Theatre Royal on Drury Lane. This time he invites music industry veteran Rod Stewart and pop-rock singer James Morrison to perform.

**8.00 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** Shane Richie presents the game show in which two contestants choose their dream prizes, then answer questions to try to win them. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

**8.50 Casualty.** Max and Zoe intervene when Shelle seems to abduct Connor, and a poisonous spider is reported to be on the loose in Holby. Medical drama, starring Sunetra Sarker and Jamie Davis.

**9.40 Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes looks after a robotic baby that has been given to Dermot and Maria to help them prepare for their new arrival, and Cathy develops a crush on her psychology lecturer. (R)

**10.10 BBC News**; Weather.

**10.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents all the highlights from the Premier League, including Newcastle United v Crystal Palace at St James' Park and Stoke City v Sunderland at the Britannia Stadium; National Lottery Update.

**11.50 Peter Kay's Comedy Shuffle.** More classic moments from the comedian's career over the past 20 years, including Peter's thoughts on dipping biscuits and embarrassing bodies. (R)

**12.20** World Snooker: Crucible Classics. **2.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.25** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.05 Film:** San Demetrio, London. (1943) **7.40 Film:** Scott of the Antarctic. (1948) Fact-based drama, starring John Mills. **9.30** The Women's Football Show. (R) **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The third session of the second semi-final. **12.00** Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul. (R) **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Continent. (R) **3.00** The Hairy Bikers' Pubs That Built Britain. (R) **3.30** Bake Off: Creme de la Creme. (R) **4.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The concluding session of the first semi-final. **5.30** Flog It! Presented by Paul Martin. (R)

**6.30 Dad's Army.** A secret weapon goes haywire and threatens Walmington-on-Sea, so Mainwaring and his platoon abandon their cookhouse duties and speed to the rescue in Corporal Jones's van. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and Clive Dunn. First shown in 1972. (R)

**7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fourth and final session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first player to reach 17 frames will progress to the final. This match produced a thriller last year between Judd Trump and Stuart Bingham, with Bingham prevailing 17-16 in a high-quality encounter to reach his first world final, where he would face former champion Shaun Murphy. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

**9.30 The Rack Pack.** Comedy drama based on the glory days of professional snooker in the 1980s and the legendary rivalry between Alex "Hurricane" Higgins and Steve Davis, featuring many key personalities of the time. Starring Luke Treadaway and Will Merrick.

**11.00 QI XL.** Extended edition. Josh Widdicombe, Jo Brand, Phill Jupitus and Alan Davies take part as host Stephen Fry asks a range of fiendish questions about lenses, lungs and legs.

**11.35 Film: Welcome to Collinwood.** (2002) Five bungling crooks find their tangled personal lives getting in the way of pulling off a robbery. Crime comedy remake, starring Sam Rockwell, William H Macy and George Clooney.

**1.00 Film:** The Abominable Snowman. (1957) **2.25** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather.; **12.29** Regional Programme. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** BBQ Champ. (R) **2.40 Film:** Smokey and the Bandit. (1977) Comedy, starring Burt Reynolds and Jackie Gleason. **4.25** The Wine Show. **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.40** ITV News; Weather.

**6.00 You've Been Framed! Bites Back!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, including an angry wife who throws a dart into her husband's leg.

**7.00 Bang on the Money.** Rickie Haywood-Williams and Melvin Odoom host the game show in which two teams of friends aim to hit a specific target number in a series of physical and mental challenges.

**8.00 Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec introduce more coverage from the nationwide talent show's touring audition stage, now in its fourth week, with the race hotting up to be crowned as the 10th champion in the history of the series. Amanda Holden shocked everyone on day one of auditions by pressing her Golden Buzzer to ensure big-voiced 12-year-old singer Beau Dermott reached the semi-finals, but it remains to be seen whether Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Alesha Dixon or the two hosts will be reaching for their own buttons any time soon.

**9.15 Play to the Whistle.** Holly Willoughby hosts the sports-based comedy panel show, with guests Jonathan Ross, Chris Kamara and Jack P Shepherd joining captains Frank Lampard and Bradley Walsh.

**10.00 ITV News**; Weather.

**10.15 Film: Fast & Furious.** (2009) A fugitive and an FBI agent are forced to work together once again to bring a killer to justice. Thriller sequel, with Vin Diesel.

**12.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10** The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** The Grid. **7.05** Challenge Wanaka. **7.30** Caterham Motorsport. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Superhumans Show. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Including the 2,000 Guineas at 3.45. **4.10** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.10** Channel 4 News. **5.30** Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.

**7.00 Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales embark on more waterway adventures. This time, they head into unchartered waters to attempt one of the longest canal journeys in the world – 350 miles coast to coast across Sweden. The first leg of their voyage begins in Gothenburg, where they link up with the historic Gota Canal, taking them into the heart of the Scandinavian country and toward the Baltic Sea. (R)

**8.00 Coastal Walks with My Dog.** The first of two programmes in which celebrities invite viewers to accompany them, as they take their beloved canine companions for walks along some of Britain's most scenic coastline routes. In this instalment, Bill Bailey travels along a smugglers' trail in North Devon, Cerys Matthews explores Pembrokeshire's rugged coast, and Debra Stephenson walks along Dorset's Jurassic coast. Previously seen on More4.

**9.00 Film: The Sweeney.** (2012) An insubordinate detective and his loyal partner set out to stop a series of robberies across London. While they try to bring the criminals to justice, they come under investigation themselves as their unorthodox methods are met with disapproval from their superiors. Crime thriller based on the 1970s TV series, with Ray Winstone, Ben Drew, Damian Lewis and Hayley Atwell.

**11.10 Film: Transporter 2.** (2005) A politician's chauffeur sets out to rescue his employer's kidnapped son from Russian criminals. Action thriller sequel, with Jason Statham.

**12.50** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.45** Hollyoaks. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **9.25** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **12.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **1.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **2.00** Celebs on Benefits: Fame to Claim. (R) **3.00** Benefits: Yorkshire Dole. (R) **4.00** Benefits: The Millionaire Shoplifter. (R) **5.00** Benefit House: Me & My 26 Kids. (R)

**6.00 5 News Weekend.**

**6.05 NCIS: Los Angeles.** Callen and the team press Vance and their new team leader Lauren Hunter for more information about what happened to Hetty. Crime drama, starring Chris O'Donnell.

**7.00 NCIS: New Orleans.** A string of house robberies at Christmas takes a bloody turn when one of the victims, a Navy Commander's wife, is found dead at the scene. Among the items stolen is a laptop containing sensitive data, and the team is able to track the computer to a moving car. However, when the police intercept the driver, it turns out to be none other than Dr Wade's adopted son Danny.

**8.00 NCIS.** The team investigates a series of crime scenes that appear to be copy-cats of previous cases, and two of Gibbs' ex-wives appear at the location with something to discuss.

**8.55 5 News Weekend.**

**9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches from the Championship, including Sheffield Wednesday v Cardiff City.

**10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.** A round-up of the latest matches in League One and League Two, including Blackpool v Wigan Athletic at Bloomfield Road and Burton Albion v Gillingham at the Pirelli Stadium.

**10.30 NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes.** Tony and Ziva assume the identities of two dead assassins, and keep a rendezvous at a luxury hotel in a bid to identify their target. (R)

**11.20 NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes.** Tony finds himself accused of murder, so the rest of the team sets out to clear his name – even though all the evidence points to his guilt. (R)

**12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Grannies Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**
**7.00** A History of Ancient Britain **8.00** Natural World: The Real Jungle Book Bear **9.00** Hinterland **10.30** Dancing Cheek to Cheek: An Intimate History of Dance **11.30** Synth Britannia at the BBC **12.30** Synth Britannia **2.00 Film:** Joy Division (2008) **3.35** Close

**ITV2**
**11.20** Britain's Got Talent **12.40** Britain's Got More Talent **1.40** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **2.40** Scorpion **3.35 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **5.20 Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30 Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **7.05 Film:** Paranoia (2013) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10 Film:** Paranoia (2013) **9.15** Britain's Got More Talent **10.15** Celebrity Juice: 80s Special **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.30** The Cleveland Show **2.20** @elevenish **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**
**12.20** Wycliffe **1.30 Film:** Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35 Film:** Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971) **3.40** Inspector Morse **5.55** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Lewis **12.00** Blue Murder **1.35** Doctor at Large **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

**ITV4**
**12.30** Pawn Stars **1.55** Football's Greatest: Bobby Charlton **2.15** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live. Stage two from Otley to Doncaster. **6.30** Pawn Stars **7.00** The Big Fish Off **8.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire **9.00 Film:** You Only Live Twice (1967) **10.10** FYI Daily **10.15 Film:** You Only Live Twice (1967) **11.25 Film:** Gangs of New York (2002) **12.35** FYI Daily **12.40 Film:** Gangs of New York (2002) **2.25** Hogan's Heroes **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**
**11.00** Baby Daddy **12.00** How I Met Your Mother **1.00** The Goldbergs **2.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.30 Film:** St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Insidious (2010) **11.05** Gogglebox **12.40** The Inbetweeners **1.45** Tattoo Fixers **2.45** Rude Tube **3.40** Gogglebox **4.20** A to Z **4.40** Revenge

**Film4**
**11.00** Carry On Dick (1974) **1.00** Chalet Girl (2011) **2.55** Horton Hears a Who! (2008) **4.35** The Spy Next Door (2010) **6.20** The Core (2003) **9.00** American Reunion (2012) **11.10** Metallica: Through the Never (2013) **1.00** The Omen (1976) **3.20** Close


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## CHOICE

Leanne Best

**Home Fires (ITV, 9pm)**
The villagers prepare for harvest time, but Steph struggles to cope with the workload and faces losing the farm if she cannot meet her quota. A newcomer to the community stirs up tension between Sarah and Frances, while Joyce and the Brindsleys also receive unexpected visitors. Teresa faces a big decision, while Sarah finds herself in a dangerous situation. Alison discovers the real reason behind the parachute accidents and makes a horrifying connection to the factory. She races to warn Frances before it is too late.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Points of View. **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** David Attenborough Meets President Obama. (R) **5.15** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

**6.00 Paul O'Grady: The Sally Army and Me.** The presenter takes on one of the Salvation Army's hardest tasks when he visits a hospice for the terminally ill before joining a marching band in Oxford Street. Last in the series.

**6.30 BBC News.**

**6.50 Regional Programme.**

**7.00 Countryfile.** Ellie Harrison visits Dorset's South Haven Peninsula, and discovers the story of 1930s conservationist Cyril Diver, who performed a groundbreaking survey of the area's ecosystem. She meets an ecologist working for the National Trust to discover how the results of his work have been used and what the future holds for the region. Plus, a selection of highlights from the series featuring conservation projects. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.

**8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Lyme Park in Cheshire, where items brought in to be valued include a pair of pistols and a portrait of actress Sarah Bernhard. Last in the series.

**9.00 Undercover.** New evidence emerges that could prove Rudy's innocence, but Nick is unable to stop a vital piece of information being revealed that threatens everything that she has worked towards.

**10.00 BBC News.**

**10.20 Regional Programme.**

**10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Southampton v Manchester City.

**11.40 Film: The Last Castle.** (2001) A court-martialled general sent to a high-security military jail sets out to bring down the cruel warden. Thriller, starring Robert Redford.

**1.45** World Snooker: Crucible Classics. **3.45** Weather for the Week Ahead. **3.50** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.15** The Great Chelsea Garden Challenge. (R) **7.15** This Farming Life. (R) **8.15** An Island Parish. (R) **8.45** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.15** Countryfile. (R) **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Flog It! (R) **2.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening session of the final at the Crucible Theatre.

**6.00 Natural World: Meet the Moose Family.** The nature documentary tells the story of a mother moose bringing up her calf in the wilds of the Canadian rockies. Many challenges lie ahead for the mother and son, not least from the threat of the hungry bears and wolves that live nearby. Film-maker Hugo Kitching sets out to follow the duo through the four seasons, although things take an unexpected turn later in the year with the discovery of a third moose. (R)

**7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents all the action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place. The second session of last year's final took on a similar pattern to the first, with Shaun Murphy threatening to open up a sizeable lead over Stuart Bingham, before being pegged back to an advantage of just one frame, heading into the final day 9-8 ahead. The commentary team features five former world champions in Dennis Taylor, Steve Davis, John Parrott, Ken Doherty and Stephen Hendry, along with Willie Thorne and John Virgo. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

**11.00 Film: Rabbit-Proof Fence.** (2002) Three Aboriginal children parted from their mothers by the government embark on an arduous journey home. Fact-based drama, with Everlyn Sampi.

**12.25** Sign Zone: Countryfile. The team looks at the landscapes across Britain that inspired Shakespeare, while John Craven is joined by Judi Dench to visit a town in Kent where the Bard's company performed. (R) **1.25** Holby City. Arthur rallies when Morven's dad is admitted with liver disease, while Zosia persuades a terminal patient to be a guinea pig for Jac's new stent prototype. (R) **2.25** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **2.20** Fierce. (R) **3.20** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **4.35** Midsomer Murders. (R)

**6.30 Regional Programme;** Weather.

**6.45 ITV News**; Weather.

**7.00 The Chase Celebrity Special.** Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Mikey North, Una Healy, Carl Froch and Alison Hammond pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.

**8.00 The Durrells.** The family faces the unwanted arrival of a domineering aunt, while Larry's girlfriend also pays a visit – giving the unwelcome relative an opportunity to voice her disapproval of the whole family. Sven makes an offer that helps Louisa cope with adversity and Margo falls in love – but Gerry is more concerned with his newly acquired owlets.

**9.00 Home Fires.** The villagers prepare for harvest time, but Steph faces losing the farm if she cannot meet her quota. A newcomer to the community stirs up tension between Sarah and Frances.

**10.00 ITV News**; Weather.

**10.20 Sugar Free Farm.** Six famous faces undertake a dietary experiment to live without sugar for two weeks, moving into a farm, where they work in return for healthy, wholesome food. (R)

**11.20 Premiership Rugby Union.** Action from the 21st and penultimate round of regular-season fixtures, including Sale Sharks v Gloucester, Exeter Chiefs v Wasps, and London Irish v Harlequins.

**12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15** The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Including the 1,000 Guineas at 3.40. **4.00** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.00** A Place in the Sun. (R) **5.45** Channel 4 News.

**6.00 Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix Highlights.** Action from the race at the Sochi Autodrom, where Lewis Hamilton was hoping to make it a third successive win on this track. Hamilton's Mercedes team-mate Nico Rosberg started the 2015 race on pole, but a retirement on the seventh lap due to a locked throttle handed the lead to the Brit, who took full advantage and would eventually go on to win his third world championship at the end of the season.

**8.00 Paul Merton's Secret Stations.** New series. The comedian takes a tour of Britain's 152 request stop stations to find out why they are there, who uses them, and the history of the area, with the aid of experts and enthusiasts. Paul begins his journey in the Scottish Highlands, stopping at Attadale to visit Lochcaroon and a local salmon farm. He then takes a trip on the Cumbrian Coast Line, getting off at Drigg and Silecroft, where he meets a group of fell runners. Finally, he visits Ferryside in Pembrokeshire and St Keyne Wishing Well Halt in Cornwall.

**9.00 Indian Summers.** Alice and Aafrin plan to flee the country, and Cynthia offers to help them escape to Australia. However, Charlie comes dangerously close to uncovering their plan. Ian drowns his sorrows following Sooni's decision, which leads him to accidentally stumble on a surprising revelation about an old friend that could put a stop to Ralph's political ambitions.

**10.00 Gogglebox.** (R)

**10.55 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words-and-numbers quiz, with regulars Sean Lock and Jon Richardson joined by guests Miles Jupp, Greg Davies and Holly Walsh. (R)

**12.00 Film:** Red Lights. (2012) **2.00** Come Dine with Me. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.30** The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.30** Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) **12.00** The Gadget Show. (R) **1.05 Film:** Another Cinderella Story. (2008) Premiere. Musical comedy, starring Selena Gomez. **2.50 Film:** Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked. (2011) Comedy sequel, starring Jason Lee. **4.30 Film:** Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. (2009) Animated comedy, with the voice of Bill Hader.

**6.10 Now That's Funny!** A bride gets cold feet at the altar, and various clips feature people who do not get what they want.

**7.05 The Secret Life of Puppies.** Two-part documentary following puppies' first year of life, beginning with the first eight weeks – the crucial period from birth to the moment they join their human families. (R)

**8.00 Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas.** A man who designed illusions for David Blaine, David Copperfield and Dynamo performs his own act, while another magician performs a traditional card trick while blindfolded.

**8.55 5 News Weekend.**

**9.00 Film: Elysium.** (2013) Premiere. In the future, most of the human race exists in poverty on a ruined Earth, while a wealthy elite live in luxury on an orbiting space station. A man dying of radiation poisoning fights security forces to gain access to the satellite and its medical facilities. Sci-fi thriller from the director of District 9, starring Matt Damon, Jodie Foster and Sharlto Copley.

**11.10 Film: Drive Angry.** (2011) A man breaks out of Hell to track down the cult leader who has murdered his daughter and plans to sacrifice her baby. Fantasy thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Amber Heard.

**1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Tube: Going Underground. (R) **4.00** Great Scientists. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**
**7.00** The Good Old Days **8.00** The Man Who Discovered Egypt **9.00** The Silk Road **10.00** Redefining Juliet **10.45 Film:** Hamlet (1964) **1.10** The Sun **2.10** Horizon: Are We Alone in the Universe?

**ITV2**
**11.50** Take Me Out **1.20** Catchphrase **2.05 Film:** Charlotte's Web (2006) **3.05** FYI Daily **3.10 Film:** Charlotte's Web (2006) **3.55 Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **4.55** FYI Daily **5.00 Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **5.40** Britain's Got Talent **6.55** Britain's Got More Talent **8.00 Film:** Skyfall (2012) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10 Film:** Skyfall (2012) **10.55** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.40** The Cleveland Show **2.30** Teleshopping

**ITV3**
**1.05** Wycliffe **2.15 Film:** Columbo: Etude in Black (1972) **4.15 Film:** The Secret of My Success (1987) **5.15** FYI Daily **5.20 Film:** The Secret of My Success (1987) **6.30** Richard Wilson on the Road **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** The Cruise Ship **8.30** Royal Stories **9.00** Bette Midler: One Night Only **10.00** The Blonde Bombshell **12.10 Film:** The American President (1995) **1.10** FYI Daily **1.15 Film:** The American President (1995) **2.15** Blue Murder **3.10** May the Best House Win **4.50** On the Buses **5.15** Judge Judy **5.40** ITV3 Nightscreen

**ITV4**
**11.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live. Stage three from Middlesbrough to Scarborough. **5.00** Storage Wars: New York **5.55** The Wine Show **7.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Mercury Rising (1998) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Mercury Rising (1998) **11.15 Film:** Inside Man (2006) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20 Film:** Inside Man (2006) **1.55** Hell on Wheels **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen

**E4**
**1.00** Made in Chelsea **2.00** Joe & Caspar Hit the Road **3.00 Film:** Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** The Big Bang Theory: 200 Big Ones **8.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.05** The 100 **1.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD

**Film4**
**11.00** The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) **1.00** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **2.50** Millions (2004) **4.45** Cheaper By the Dozen (2003) **6.45** School of Rock (2003) **9.00** Bridesmaids (2011) **11.25** Byzantium (2012) **1.45** Damien: Omen II (1978) **4.00** Close

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**MONDAY**
**Doc Hollywood, ITV, 10.30am**
An arrogant doctor on his way to California causes an accident in a rural South Carolina town and is sentenced to community service at the local hospital. Initially desperate to leave, he gradually comes to appreciate a slower pace of life. Comedy, starring Michael J Fox. (1991)

**TUESDAY**
**Paycheck, BBC1, 11.45pm**
An engineer carries out a top-secret job on the understanding that his knowledge of the task will be erased from his mind afterwards to protect his employer's intellectual property. However, waking after the memory-wiping procedure, he is shocked to learn he had somehow agreed to waive the huge payment due to him – and is wanted for a murder he does not remember committing. John Woo's thriller, starring Ben Affleck, Uma Thurman and Aaron Eckhart. (2003)

The World Is Not Enough, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

**WEDNESDAY**
**Profile for Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm**
A criminal profiler retires to live in California with her family and move on from the horrific crime that ended her career. Her idyllic life is shattered when she discovers the serial killer responsible has escaped from prison and is intent on terrorising her. Thriller, starring Nicki Aycox and Steve Bacic. (2013)

**THURSDAY**
**Deadly Pursuit, Channel 5, 3.15pm**
An Alaskan wilderness guide visits a friend in LA, where he meets and falls in love with a well-off city girl. She clearly feels the same because when he returns home, she decides to follow him – only to come up against his ex-girlfriend and a sinister drug operation. Romantic thriller, starring KC Clyde. (2015)

**FRIDAY**
**The World Is Not Enough, ITV, 10.40pm**
James Bond is assigned to protect the heiress of an oil dynasty after her father is killed in a bombing at MI6 headquarters. The attack is the work of an infamous terrorist who is unable to feel pain after surviving a gunshot to his head. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan. (1999)

## PICK OF THE WEEK

# New comedy series is a real Royal affair

To mark the Queen's 90th birthday, there have been a few programmes that have promised an intriguing – but respectful – insight into what life is really like behind the closed doors of Buckingham Palace.

However, Channel 4's new sitcom The Windsors, which comes from Bert Tyler-Moore and George Jeffrie, aka the people who brought us Star Stories, definitely doesn't fall into that category. Instead, it presents the royals as we've never seen them before.

Bert explains: "It's looking at the real Royal Family, so using the real people – Will, Kate etcetera – as our characters, and presenting them in a larger-than-life, fictional soap opera.

"So it's the real life Windsors, but done as if they're in something like Dynasty or Dallas. It's a very heightened and very silly parody version of reality, I suppose."

He adds: "We know the real Wills flies a helicopter, so we've exaggerated that to the Nth degree and have stories where our Wills is a real action-hero guy flying a helicopter and saving people's lives and behaving like a Tom Cruise-type character."

You might think that the writing duo had planned the series to coincide with the Queen's birthday, but it seems there is no real agenda behind The Windsors beyond making people laugh.

Bert says: "We never really thought "Oh wow, the Royal Family are crying out to be done." They're an institution that is always there. I think we just thought it was a funny idea, and then I suppose when we started thinking about it more seriously, we realised that they hadn't really been done properly since Spitting Image, and that's a long, long time ago. That's 25-30 years ago now."

In fact, it seems if anything, working on the series has made the writers fonder of the royals in general – and one member in particular.

George says: "I like our Prince Edward, who's sort of our age group. He's a contemporary of ours, and he's often perceived as such a failure. So we've enjoyed a trip down memory lane, bringing up things people may have forgotten. Things like getting into Cambridge with a C and two D's, It's a Royal Knockout, being booted out of the marines after a couple of months.

"It's all in good fun. I like him a lot. They're all great, but I think he's my favourite."

We'll get to meet the rest of the Windsors in this opening double bill, including Prince Charles (Harry Enfield) as he tries to keep order, Wills (Hugh Skinner), who wants to mingle with people, and Pippa Middleton (Morgana Robinson), who is determined to bag a prince of her own.

The opening edition finds Kate (Louise Ford) attempting to win the royals over by helping Harry (Richard Goulding) with his fancy dress ball at Buckingham Palace. However, she'll have to contend with a gate-crashing Sarah Ferguson (Katy Wix), and a scheming Camilla (Haydn Gwynne), who is out to sabotage her efforts.

The Windsors, Friday, Channel 4, 10pm

## BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**
**Invictus: The Road to the Games**
**BBC1, 7pm**
Named after Invictus, the Latin for 'Unconquered, Undefeated,' the 2014 games in London were a resounding success with around 300 competitors from 13 countries competing in athletics, archery, indoor rowing, powerlifting, road cycling, sitting volleyball, swimming, wheelchair basketball and wheelchair rugby. In this one-off documentary, Nick Knowles shares the inspiring stories of men and women in the armed forces who have been wounded, injured or suffer from PTSD as they vie for a place in the UK Armed Forces Team at this year's event at Walt Disney World, near Orlando, Florida. Meanwhile, the brains behind the Invictus Games, Prince Harry, catches up with some of the competitors from two years ago and talks about his hopes for the forthcoming event, which he launched alongside First Lady Michelle Obama last October.

**TUESDAY**
**In the Club**
**BBC1, 9pm**
Kay Mellor's drama returns, picking up the action 10 months (although some viewers might think nine might be more appropriate) after we last saw the group of new mums, who first met at a Parent Craft class. Kim is doing her best to look after her little daughter Emily, but her relationship with Neil is looking shaky, especially as she prepares to see her ex-girlfriend Susie for the first time since they split up. Meanwhile, it seems 10 months isn't long enough for Dev to live down the fact that he locked baby Amber in a van, as his and wife Jasmin's mothers have moved in and are refusing to leave. Sadly though, that's about to be the least of their problems.

**WEDNESDAY**
**Mary Beard's Ultimate Rome: Empire Without Limit**
**BBC2, 9pm**
English Classical scholar Mary Beard explores the physical world of the Roman Empire, finding surprising parallels with our own world. She discovers a vast empire bound together by a common material culture, and a globalised economy of such scale that evidence of its side-effects can still be seen today. As Mary examines a huge commercial and cultural network, she takes in the vital supply of olive oil to Rome, the slave trade, and the silver mines of Spain. Following the famous Roman road network, the presenter also reveals another side to the Roman Empire, where builders and traders eclipse soldiers, and slaves make the most of a hugely connected new world.

Mary Beard's Ultimate Rome: Empire Without Limit, Wednesday, BBC2, 9pm

**THURSDAY**
**Peaky Blinders**
**BBC2, 9pm**
New series. Cillian Murphy returns as Birmingham-based mobster Thomas Shelby in the third run of author Steven Knight's period drama. At the end of the last series, having outwitted his enemies once again, Shelby announced he was getting married – but who to? At last the long-awaited ceremony has arrived, but in the middle of the celebrations, a mysterious visitor puts the entire Shelby family in danger, pulling the mob boss into a web of intrigue more lethal than anything he has yet encountered. Helen McCrory, Paul Anderson, Sophie Rundle and Joe Cole star as the family, with an appearance from Alexander Siddig (last seen as Dorne ruler Doran Martell in Game of Thrones).

**FRIDAY**
**MasterChef: The Finals**
**BBC1, 8.30pm**
After seven weeks of challenges, the search for the country's best amateur cook reaches its climax. The three hopefuls must push themselves to the limit for one last time as they face the final challenge of producing three exceptional courses, in which they must push the culinary boundaries to ensure that they impress the judges. Then it's over to John Torode and Gregg Wallace, as they decide which of the trio deserves to succeed last year's victor Simon Wood and be crowned MasterChef Champion 2016. Last in the series.

**The Secret**
**ITV, 9pm**
When Lesley inherits money from her father and threatens to leave him, it forces Colin's hand, and with Hazel's help he puts his murderous plan in motion. James Nesbitt stars.

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Property

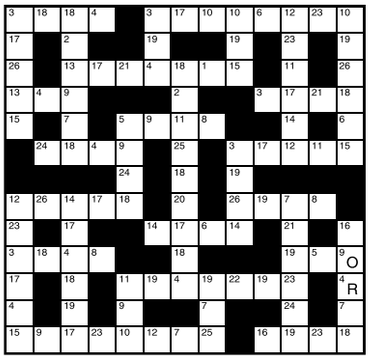
An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

# BRAIN GYM No.375

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



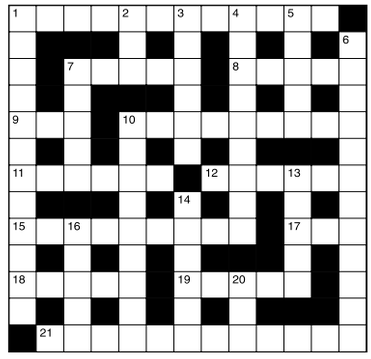
| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 14 |
| 2 | 15 |
| 3 | 16 |
| 4 R | 17 |
| 5 | 18 |
| 6 | 19 |
| 7 | 20 |
| 8 | 21 |
| 9 O | 22 |
| 10 | 23 |
| 11 | 24 |
| 12 | 25 |
| 13 | 26 |

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q | G | D | S | J | W | B | O | X | K | N | E | M |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| U | Y | I | T | L | R | A | Z | C | H | F | V | P |

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



### Cryptic Clues:

**Across**

1. This man's note may produce surprise (12)
7. Slide about and move sideways (5)
8. The "thank you" letter from Greece (5)
9. One hundred that is about to freeze (3)
10. False description of atheists? (9)
11. Puts up a secret entanglement (6)
12. Smooth tongue? (6)
15. Does such timber provide immunity? (5-4)
17. A ship that carries goods ashore (3)
18. Finally acquired an earthwork (5)
19. The doctor may take one for an idler (5)
21. Won't they want a penny for their thoughts? (4-8)

**Down**

1. Thrice curate perhaps – it's a way to earn a living (12)
2. What one does when agreeably tired? (3)
3. Such a railway may make a fair profit! (6)
4. Timber which may be put to striking use? (9)
5. She's exact about one point (5)
6. Old radio parts of the highest repute (4-8)
7. Cultivated European (5)
10. Yet it means there's only a slim hope! (3,6)
13. I am a long time getting the likeness (5)
14. Who had turned round the elephant's seat? (6)
16. Below two foreign articles (5)
20. Admit changes now (3)

### Quick Clues:

**Across**

1. Part of golf-course (7,5)
7. Dismay (5)
8. Supple (5)
9. Pinch (3)
10. Haughtiness (9)
11. To place (6)
12. Spider's trap (6)
15. Ornaments for horses (9)
17. Rocky hill-top (3)
18. Precise (5)
19. Laziness (5)
21. Sports ground (7,5)

**Down**

1. Mufti (5,7)
2. Little devil (3)
3. In abundance (6)
4. Devout (9)
5. Consumed (5)
6. Echoed (12)
7. Savoury jelly (5)
10. Aversion (9)
13. Observe (5)
14. Concord (6)
16. Benefit (5)
20. Lout (3)

## Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | | | | 1 | | 4 | | |
| | 4 | | | 3 | | 2 | | |
| | | | 5 | | | | 6 | 3 |
| 1 | 2 | | 4 | | | | | 8 |
| | 7 | | | 5 | 2 | | 4 | |
| 6 | | | | | 1 | | 2 | 7 |
| 8 | 1 | | 6 | | 9 | | | 2 |
| | | 5 | | 2 | | | 9 | |
| | 9 | | | 7 | | | | 1 |

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 1 |
| 3 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 9 |
| 9 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 7 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 5 |
| 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| 8 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| 1 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 8 |
| 4 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 3 |

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Miscall; 8 Untrue; 9 Homonym; 10 Treads; 11 Hinder; 12 Increase; 18 Commando; 20 Teaser; 21 Imogen; 22 Spreads; 23 Little; 24 Density. Down: 1 Curtain; 2 Stretch; 3 Subdue; 5 Isotherm; 6 Crowns; 7 Laymen; 13 Accredit; 14 Knights; 15 Bounded; 16 People; 17 Assets; 19 Memoir. QUICK - Across: 4 Weighty; 8 Umpire; 9 Aground; 10 Lethal; 11 Nation; 12 Variable; 18 Farcical; 20 Vigour; 21 Evolve; 22 Effaced; 23 Bruise; 24 Already. Down: 1 Outlive; 2 Upstart; 3 Armada; 5 Engineer; 6 Growth; 7 Tendon; 13 Befriend; 14 Acclaim; 15 Altered; 16 Sinful; 17 Donate; 19 Covert.

## Thinking space

## Quiz

1. On which island is the port Launceston?
2. What type of animal is a duiker?
3. What is the name of Birmingham City Football Club's home ground?
4. Of what is the angstrom a unit?
5. Who directed the film E.T.?
6. Which conductor established the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in 1946?
7. What is the middle period of the Mesozoic era called?
8. Which union is known as the RMT?
9. Which term for a group of hostile infiltrators originated in the Spanish Civil War?
10. What is the full name for the medical condition ME?

**Last week's solutions:**

**Quiz:** 1 The Hague; 2 David, 2nd king of Israel; 3 Colorado; 4 John Noakes; 5 Jutes; 6 Eye; 7 Georges Bizet; 8 Alps; 9 Orion; 10 Peach.

**Niner:** PATRONISE

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

**5845** gives a boy's name,
**97631** gives a second boy's name,
**97429** gives a third boy's name.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | |

Visit: classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk

Members of staff outside Stourbridge's Pizza Express following the refurbishment

Diavolo pizza, thin and crispy, and made before your very eyes

Aiming to please, Lydia Orrell, manager Louise Kitson and Andy Steventon

The much-vaunted delicious dough balls

Pasta to please – the lasagna classica

# Express delight at bits and pizzas of Italian in new-look restaurant

**PIZZA, not something I would normally consider present on my radar, so a food review of Pizza Express? Well, as they say, when in Rome...**

By Graeme Andrew

For many years now Pizza Express has been offering top-notch Italian delicacies from its High Street restaurant in Stourbridge, and has recently undergone a fabulous transformation.

Walking in, you are immediately aware of clean lines – sleek, but with a hint of the traditional – harking back to the building's previous incarnation as Cranage's Tea Rooms, and Royal Turf Lounge Bar. The frontage, once strewn with cakes and other baking delights to tempt passers-by, is now a window onto diners enjoying their meals, with excellent, attentive service, in relaxed, stylish surroundings.

As I say, I'm no expert, but having settled down with a nice spicy Shiraz, I plumped for the calamari as starter, while my wife, a die-hard pizza/pasta aficionado with Pizza Expresses in and around Preston – it's a long story – was straight in there, almost salivating at the mere thought of dough balls.

Simply, but exquisitely presented, I picked up my first piece of calamari – well, fingers were invented before forks – with some trepidation, as I had been reliably informed by my Italian food expert opposite that it can be chewy. Not a bit of it, it melted in the mouth and the dip set my palate aglow with tartness.

Judging by the silence, albeit brief, and Cheshire cat grin of my eating partner, the dough balls were also up to standard.

In between courses, I was taken aback, once again by the decor. Marble tables with a selection of different seating – none of which looked like the types developed by sadists who only work in 90 degree angles, making you feel like you're about to fall down a ski slope. Instead comfort is assured. There is a black and white theme throughout, with dark wood in between and modern lighting bringing things smack-bang up to date, without going over the top – at no point did I think American diner.

And at no point did I think Italian pretension either – there were no strains of accordion in the background, or Volare being blasted out on the music system, instead it was unobtrusive up-beat pop, played at a volume which didn't interfere with conversation.

Cannily, the diner is given a first-hand view of the goings-on in the kitchen, as it's open plan and you see your dishes being created before your very eyes.

Anyway, back to the food, my main was a thin crust diavolo pizza, as I am not a fan of doughy chewing-for-infinity Italian fayre. On arrival, it was actually bigger than the plate, but had a very generous smattering of spicy beef, peppers and pepperoni to keep me occupied, with the base at the very most plate thickness, brilliant for me, with my aversion to dough chomping.

Meanwhile Mrs Preston had the lasagna classica, which it has to be said, looked fantastic. Huh? We go to a pizza restaurant and she doesn't have pizza? No, I didn't get that one either. Between us there was a side salad which had a lovely sharp dressing and proper, crunchy homemade coleslaw.

I have to admit to being beaten by the sheer size of my main course, but I had an eye on the dessert menu, which offered far more than the usual chocolate fudge cake and ice cream – see I'm used to class joints me! I was particularly intrigued by the dolcetti offerings, smaller sweets on a oblong plate alongside a coffee of your choice – what a fantastic idea! So it was salted caramel profiteroles for me.

The missus meanwhile opted for limoncello, a very sweet and sour sorbet affair, with meringue-type bits inside and lemony sauce within – mouth-watering. Both were the perfect end to a perfect meal, which was just part of the Pizza Express experience and one which we hope to repeat very soon.

# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

## An improved detached that is well-appointed

BLOXWICH **£239,995**

**In a much requested location, an improved detached two-bedroomed bungalow - 53 Lydford Road, Bloxwich, Walsall has splendidly appointed accommodation.**

With double glazing and gas central heating, it is for sale through Skitts at £239,995.

It has a porch with a glazed doors leading to a reception hall with doors off, a lounge with a bow window to the front, a refitted breakfast kitchen with a range of matching units with working surfaces over, a built-in electric fan assisted oven, inset four-ring electric hob over and an extractor fan above.

Bedroom one has a door leading out to the rear garden and fitted wardrobes and bedroom two overlooks the frontage.

### Garage

The-refitted shower room comes with a walk-ion shower cubicle with an electric shower over, a vanity wash hand basin, low flush WC, a chrome-effect heated towel rail and an extractor fan.

The garage has power and light and a side door with access to a utility room.

This has a cupboard unit with a work top, a sink and drainer and plumbing for an automatic washing machine.

Outside the fore garden is mainly laid to lawn and there is a side driveway leading to a carport.

The rear garden has lawn, flower and shrub borders and a timber garden store.

Bloxwich is a small town and civil parish in the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall, situated in the north of the borough and forming part of the Staffordshire/West Midlands border.

Bloxwich town centre is still mostly made up of Victorian and Edwardian buildings and features leafy parks and gardens.

Bloxwich is well served by public transport and is home to two railway stations, Bloxwich and Bloxwich North.

Regular buses link Bloxwich with Walsall, whilst others link the area to Wolverhampton, Bilston, Willenhall, Brownhills, Wednesfield, Cannock and Hednesford.

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY
**AGENT: Skitts**
**TEL: 01922 478104**
**EMAIL: bloxwich@skitts.net**

### KEY FEATURES

2 bedrooms
1 re-fitted shower room
Re-fitted kitchen with oven and hob
Detached garage and utility room
Energy rating C

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY
**AGENT: Dixons**
**TEL: 01922 500195**

## Three-bedroomed semi-detached family home features generous accommodation

**This three-bedroomed semi-detached family home in Bell Lane, Walsall has generous accommodation and is for sale through Dixons at £225,000.**

It has a drive through garage with an inspection pit, a large private rear garden, a porch, an entrance hall with a door to the garage and under-stairs storage, a living room with a bay window, a lounge, a kitchen/diner with modern white units and contrasting black working surfaces, a Belfast sink, built-in oven and hob and extractor and attractive mosaic-style splash-back tiling, a utility and guest WC, three bedrooms and a bathroom.

For further details call Dixons on 01922 500195 or visit www.dixonsestateagents.co.uk

### KEY FEATURES

Drive with inspection pit
Under-stairs storage
Belfast sink
Bay window in living room
Price: £225,000

# Two-bedroomed duplex apartment

STAFFORD

£92,500

**For sale with no chain, this two-bedroomed duplex apartment in Pike Close, Stafford is located within Beaconside.**

It is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £92,500 with no onward chain.

The accommodation comprises an entrance hallway, a modern fitted kitchen and a lounge. On the first floor is a master bedroom, bedroom two and a bathroom. Contact DB Roberts & Partners on 01785 255800 or visit www.dbroberts.co.uk

# Much extended and traditional semi-detached family home

BLOXWICH

£129,950 <<<

**Recently refurbished to a high standard, this spacious and much extended traditional semi-detached family home in Booth Street, Bloxwich, is for sale through Marrion & Co at £129,950 with no chain.**

Occupying a commanding corner position, the house is close to all amenities.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has a storm porch, a reception hall, a spacious lounge, a rear dining room, an extended kitchen with a four-ring gas hob extractor hood, a fan assisted oven, a ground floor WC, a through bedroom two, two further bedrooms and a partly tiled shower room, garage and gardens. Contact Marrion & Co on 01922 404446 or visit www.marrion.co.uk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EPC: F

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EPC:D

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EPC: B

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. Bathroom, Balcony
. GCH, DG
. Furnished
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EPC: D

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EPC: D

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. Bathroom, UPVC DG, GCH
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EPC: E

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. GCH, Garage
. Front & Rear Gardens
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EPC: D

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# Stylish large family home contemporary in its decor

WIMBLEBURY <<<

**An immaculately presented four-bedroomed detached property, 3 Barn Way, Wimblebury, Cannock has an appealing, modern design.**

It is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at offers over £240,000.

The property comprises a driveway accommodating two cars to the front flanked by a path to the front door and an adjoining area of lawn, an entrance hall, a guest WC, a lovely light and airy lounge with a bay window and light coloured wood-effect flooring and a feature fireplace.

A separate dining room that is perfect for formal entertaining, with wood-effect flooring and a bay window, an attractive and spacious fitted kitchen with contemporary white units.

# Beautiful detached simply immaculate

OLDBURY

£184,950

**The definition of "beautiful" within four walls, this three-bedroomed detached house in Ditta Drive, Oldbury is a detached Morris Homes new build-style house immaculately decorated throughout.**

It is for sale through Love Your Postcode at £184,950.

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K.Stuart Swash

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14th June 2016

*Entries to date include:*

**Residential & Investment Properties**

**Houses for Renovation and Improvement**

*Further entries invited*

*Please Register for Catalogue*

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| wednesfield@skitts.net | 01902 732324 |
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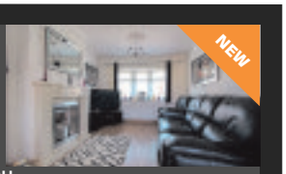
| westbromwich@skitts.net | 0121 530 4240 |
| wolverhampton@skitts.net | 01902 788188 |
| lettings@skitts.net | 0121 520 2255 |
| surveyors@skitts.net | 0121 520 2255 |

NEW

**HARVEST GROVE, BLOXWICH**
- SUPERB MODERN FOUR BEDROOM PROPERTY
- FITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN WITH OVEN & HOB
- FAMILY BATHROOM AND EN-SUITE SHOWER
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED WINDOWS
- £250 RECOMMENDED SOLICITOR INCENTIVE
- GARDEN ROOM
- GARAGE AND PARKING

**£220,000**



NEW

**MACKAY ROAD, BLOXWICH WALSALL**
- SUPERBLY PRESENTED PROPERTY
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- EXCELLENT CONSERVATORY
- FITTED KITCHEN WITH OVEN AND HOB
- UTILITY ROOM
- PLEASANT REAR GARDEN WITH DECKING
- BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL

**£120,000**

NEW

**VINCENT STREET WALSALL**
- POPULAR LOCATION
- THREE BEDROOMS
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED WINDOWS
- KITCHEN AND BATHROOM
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

**£110,000 OFFERS**

NEW PRICE

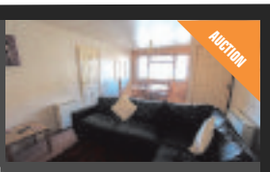
**LYDFORD ROAD, BLOXWICH WALSALL**
- MUCH REQUESTED LOCATION
- TWO BEDROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- uPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- EXCELLENT RE-FITTED SHOWER ROOM
- RE-FITTED KITCHEN WITH OVEN AND HOB
- DETACHED GARAGE AND UTILITY ROOM
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED

**£239,995 OFFERS**

NEW

**BEECHES ROAD WALSALL**
- SPACIOUS DETACHED PROPERTY
- EXCELLENT POTENTIAL TO IMPROVE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
- GARDEN AT REAR
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED

**£130,000 offers**



AUCTION

**GREEN LANE, SHELFIELD WALSALL**
- AUCTION PROPERTY
- GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARAGE AT REAR
- TWO BEDROOMS
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED

**GUIDE PRICE £55,000**

AUCTION

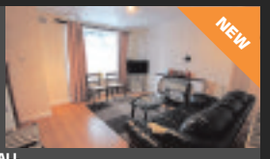
**DAW END LANE, RUSHALL WALSALL**
- AUCTION PROPERTY
- FOUR BEDROOMS
- SPACIOUS 25FT THROUGH LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- BATHROOM AND SEPARATE SHOWER ROOM
- AMPLE OFF ROAD PARKING
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- GARDEN TO REAR
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED

**GUIDE PRICE £160,000**

NEW

**PARKER STREET, BLOXWICH WALSALL**
- CONVENIENT FOR BLOXWICH TOWN CENTRE
- THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- BRAND NEW FITTED CARPETS
- IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- GARDEN AT REAR
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

**£89,950**



NEW

**STOWE STREET, BLOXWICH WALSALL**
- THREE BEDROOMS
- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
- LOUNGE AND DINING KITCHEN
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE
- PLEASANT REAR GARDEN
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED

**£97,500 OFFERS**

NEW

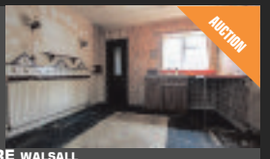
**MACKAY ROAD, BLOXWICH WALSALL**
- POPULAR LOCATION
- THREE BEDROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- LOUNGE AND DINING ROOMS
- RE-FITTED BATHROOM WITH SHOWER
- PLEASANT REAR GARDEN
- OFF ROAD PARKING

**£137,500 Offers**

AUCTION

**BROAD LANE, BLOXWICH WALSALL**
- AUCTION PROPERTY
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- CLOSE TO BLOXWICH RAILWAY STATION
- TWO BEDROOMS
- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
- NO UPWARD CHAIN!!

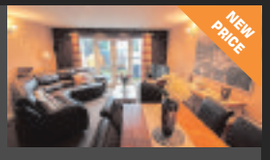
**GUIDE PRICE £73,500**



AUCTION

**ST CLEMENTS AVENUE, LEAMORE WALSALL**
- TOWN HOUSE STYLE PROPERTY
- FOUR BEDROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- uPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
- LOUNGE AND KITCHEN
- REAR GARDEN
- BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY

**GUIDE PRICE £70,000**



NEW PRICE

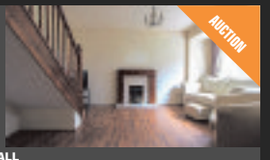
**HARDEN CLOSE WALSALL**
- OPEN HOUSE VIEWING
- SAT 30TH APRIL 11AM - 2PM
- TWO BATHROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- FOUR BEDROOMS
- PRICED TO SELL
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED

**£140,000 OFFERS IN EXCESS OF**

AUCTION

**HEATHER ROAD, BLOXWICH WALSALL**
- AUCTION PROPERTY
- LARGE CORNER PLOT
- THREE BEDROOMS
- DETACHED WOODEN OUTBUILDING
- CUL DE SAC POSITION
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- NO CHAIN

**GUIDE PRICE £75,000**



AUCTION

**SIGNAL GROVE, BLOXWICH WALSALL**
- AUCTION PROPERTY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
- TWO ALLOCATED PARKING SPACES
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED

**GUIDE PRICE £75,000**

NO CHAIN

**BUTTS ROAD WALSALL**
- VERY SMART 2ND FLOOR APARTMENT
- CONVENIENT FOR WALSALL TOWN CENTRE
- 50% SHARED OWNERSHIP
- VENDORS MAY CONSIDER WHOLE SHARE SALE
- VIEWING STRONGLY RECOMMENDED
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

**£25,000 OFFERS 50% SHARED OWNERSHIP**

AUCTION

**MULBERRY PLACE, BLOXWICH WALSALL**
- AUCTION PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED WINDOWS
- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
- GARDENS
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- NO CHAIN

**GUIDE PRICE £75,000**

**NOW TAKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUR JUNE AUCTION**

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| sedgley@skitts.net | 01902 686868 |
| greatbridge@skitts.net | 0121 520 2255 |
| dudley@skitts.net | 01384 214 996 |
| bloxwich@skitts.net | 01922 478104 |
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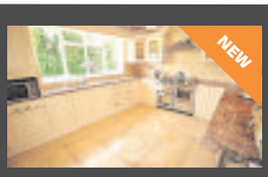
| surveyors@skitts.net | 0121 520 2255 |

EPC G

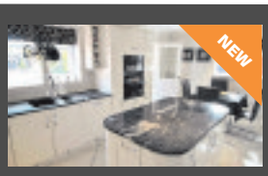


NEW

**SHARESHILL** WARSTONE ROAD
- Impressive Detached Dormer Bungalow On Extensive Plot
- Recpetion Hall, Two Reception Rooms
- Superb Kitchen
- Four Excellent Bedrooms
- Luxury Bathroom
- Ample Off Road Parking
- Outbuildings

£539,950

EPC D



NEW

**ESSINGTON** BROWNSHORE LANE
- Exceptional Impeccably Presented Four Bedrooms Detached on Premier Road
- Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Superb Orangery
- Stunning Breakfast Kitchen
- Two En-suite Shower Rooms
- Luxury Family Bathroom, Garage
- Pleasant Landscaped Gardens
- Large Driveway

£365,000

EPC D

NEW

**COPPICE FARM** HEBDEN GROVE
- Well Appointed Extended Detached Residence
- Prominent Corner Plot
- Hall, Guests Wc
- Three Reception Rooms, Conservatory
- Fitted Kitchen, Four Excellent Bedrooms, Study
- Bathroom, En-suite Shower Room, Garage
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Driveway, Gardens

£365,000

EPC TBC

NEW

**NEW INVENTION** BRAMBLE CLOSE
- Occupying An Excellent Corner Plot (Ideal For Further Extension Stpp) An Extended Modern Semi Detached
- Hall, Superb Lounge
- Impressive Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating
- Garage, Driveway

£159,950

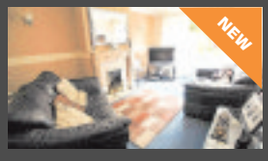
EPC B

NEW

**NEW INVENTION** SQUIRES GROVE
- Well Presented Modern End Terrace Property
- Hall, Guests Wc
- Spacious Lounge With Dining Area
- Brekfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom, Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Two Allocated Parking Spaces
- Front And Rear Gardens

£150,000

EPC D



NEW

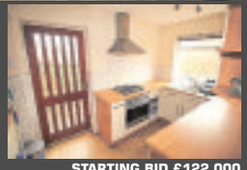
**NEW INVENTION** BRAMBLE CLOSE
- Well Appointed Modern Semi Detached
- Lounge, Re-fitted Kicthen
- Three Good Size Bedrooms
- Re-fitted Bathroom, Integral Garage,
- Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazing
- Front And Rear Gardens
- No Upward Chain

£139,950

EPC E

AUCTION

**NEW INVENTION** FLETCHER ROAD
- For Sale By Modern Method Of Auction, Starting Bid Price £122,000 Plus Reservation Fee
- Three Bedroom Link Detached House
- Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating System
- Driveway



STARTING BID £122,000

EPC D

NEW

**WILLENHALL** ASHMORE LAKE ROAD
- Well Presented Edwardian Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen
- Excellent Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazing
- Driveway
- Pleasant Rear Gardens

OFFERS OVER £110,000

EPC D

NEW

**WILLENHALL** GIPSY LANE
- Spacious Traditional Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazaing
- Long Rear Gardens
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS OVER £115,000

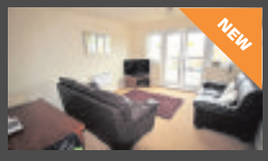
EPC TBC

NEW

**WILLENHALL** FARMHOUSE ROAD
- Improved End Terrace Property
- Hall, Guests Wc
- Lounge, Dining Kitchen
- Three Good Size Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating System
- Rear Gardens, No Upward Chain

£99,950

EPC D



NEW

**NEW INVENTION** SQUIRES GROVE
- Spacious Second Floor Apartment In Popular Development
- Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- Two Excellent Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- En-suite Shower Room
- Double Glazing
- Allocated Parking Space

OFFERS OVER £92,000

EPC D

NEW

**WILLENHALL** ALBION ROAD
- Period Mid Terrace Property
- Hall, Lounge, Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Spacious Re-fitted Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Gardens
- No Upward Chain

£89,950

EPC D

**WILLENHALL** BILSTON LANE
- Outstanding Impeccably Appointed 4 Bedrooms Detached On Excellent Plot
- 3 Receptions ● Stunning Conservatory
- Superb Breakfast Kitchen ● Detached Garage

£350,00

EPC D

NEW PRICE

**WILLENHALL** HONEYBOURNE WAY
- Superb Spacious 4 Bedrooms Executive Detached
- Hall, Two Reception Rooms ● Superb Conservatory
- Breakfast Kitchen, En-suite Shower Rm, Bathroom
- Ample Off Road Parking ● Gardens

£260,000

EPC E

NEW PRICE

**WILLENHALL** DARVEL ROAD
- Extended Three Bedrooms Link Detached
- Through Lounge / Dining Room ● Breakfast Kitchen
- Garage, Driveway, Impressive Gardens
- Predominantly Double Glazing ● Gas CH

£159,950

EPC D

NEW PRICE

**WILLENHALL** NEWENT CLOSE
- Impressive 3 Bedrooms Detached Property
- Spacious Lounge, Dining Room ● Fitted Kitchen
- Luxury Re-Fitted Bathroom ● Double Glazing
- Gas CH ● Long Driveway ● Front & Rear Gardens

OFFERS OVER £146,000

EPC B

NEW PRICE

**WILLENHALL** SPINDLE TREE RISE
- Superb Three Storey Mid Terrace ● No Chain
- Hall, Lounge ● Kitchen, Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom, Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating ● Driveway, Rear Gardens

£140,000

EPC D

**WILLENHALL** MALVERN CLOSE
- Deceptively Spacious 3 Beds Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms ● Extended Kitchen
- Bathroom ● Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Garage, Driveway ● Pleasant Gardens

£135,000

EPC D

NO CHAIN

**NEW INVENTION** BALMORAL DRIVE
- Spacious 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Through Lounge ● Kitchen ● Conservatory
- Loft Room ● Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Gardens

£130,000

EPC E

**WILLENHALL** LUCKNOW ROAD
- Beautifully Maintained Traditional Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms, Impressive Kitchen, Utility
- Two Bedrooms, Superb Re-fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Drive

£130,000

EPC C

NO CHAIN

**HADLEY HEATH** MARDEN CLOSE
- Modern Style Semi Detached ● Large Plot
- Hall, Lounge ● Re-fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms ● Re-fitted Bathroom, Driveway
- Gas Central Heating System ● Double Glazing

£129,950

EPC D

NO CHAIN

**WILLENHALL** MEMORIAL CLOSE
- Greatly Improved 2 Beds Modern Style Semi
- Hall, Lounge, Newly Fitted Kitchen ● Conservatory
- Newly Re-fitted Bathroom ● Gas CH ● No Chain
- Double Glazing ● Car Port, Drive, Rear Garden

£120,000

EPC C

**WILLENHALL** WALSALL ROAD
- Beautifully Presented 2 Bedrooms End Terrace
- Hall, Guests WC ● Lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom ● Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Rear Gardens ● Garage To The Rear

£115,000

## Public Notice

32 CHILTERN DRIVE, WILLENHALL WV13 3QL

We advise that an offer has been made for the above property for the sum of £115,000. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer within 7 days.

# brand new kitchen and bathroom

OLDBURY

£124,950

**This superbly presented modern semi-detached property in Avery Myers Close, Oldbury includes a refitted kitchen and bathroom.**

**Coming with a rear garden, car port and off-street parking for two cars, it is for sale through Derek Spires at £124,950.**

**It has a canopy porch, an entrance hall with laminate flooring and a staircase off, a superb kitchen with a four-burner gas hob**

# Executive home is impeccably maintained in rural spot

WEDGES MILLS

£349,950 <<<

**An outstanding four-bedroomed executive home in The Meadows, Wedges Mills is absolutely impeccably well maintained.**

Adjacent to open fields, it is for sale through Webbs at £349,950.

With beautiful open views to the side in a quiet cul-de-sac in Wedges Mills, is is close to all amenities. It comprises a through hallway, guest WC, lounge, dining room, conservatory, family dining kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms with two en-suites and a generous family bathroom. It benefits from gas central heating, double glazed windows, a private driveway, a double garage, gardens. Contact Webbs on 01543 468846 or visit www.webbsestateagents.co.uk


SDL BIGWOOD
*Midlands' Leading Auctioneers*

**AUCTION**
**5TH MAY 2016**

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**137 Lots**
To include properties on behalf of:

Birmingham City Council
City of Wolverhampton Council
Canal & River Trust

Plus properties on behalf of Receivers/Administrators

Vacant Residential Properties
Residential Investment Properties
Vacant Commercial Properties
Commercial Investment Properties
Land/Development Opportunities

**ENTRIES NOW INVITED FOR OUR NEXT AUCTION**

at Aston Villa Football Ground

**79 Pargeter Street, Walsall**
2 Bedroom End Terraced House
**Guide: £19,000-£24,000**

**60 Daisy Street, Bilston**
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
**Guide: £50,000 plus**

**129 Coronation Road, Wednesbury**
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
**Guide: £49,000-£54,000**

**54 Pomeroy Road, Great Barr**
3 Bedroom Mid Terraced House
**Guide: £115,000 plus**

**78 Neachells Lane, Wednesfield**
3 Bedroom Fire Damaged Mid Terraced House
**Guide: £15,000 plus**

**154 High Street, Bloxwich**
Town Centre Mixed Retail & Residential Invetment
Current Rental Income: £7,298pa
**Guide: £55,000-£65,000**

**Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots*

***For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website*

SDL BIGWOOD

*Midlands' Leading Auctioneers*

# AUCTION
## 5TH MAY 2016
### at Aston Villa Football Ground

Viewing 27th Apr 15:30 & 4th May 15:30

**47 Dimmocks Avenue, Bilston, Wolverhampton**
A Vacant Freehold 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property that is in Need of Refurbishment Works Throughout
**Guide: £49,000 - £54,000**

**316 Birmingham New Road, Wolverhampton**
A Vacant Freehold 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property Benefitting from having UPVC double glazing and electric storage heating.
**Guide: £50,000 plus**

Viewing 30th Apr 13:15 & 4th May 12:30

Viewing 30th Apr 12:30 & 3rd May 13:45

**28 Lane Road, Lanesfield**
2 Bed Detached Bungalow
**Guide: £39,000 - £44,000**

Viewing 27th Apr 12:30 & 4th May 12:30

**154 Saltwells Road, Netherton**
3 Bed Mid Terraced House
**Guide: £29,000 - £34,000**

Viewing 30th Apr 11:45 & 4th May 14:00

**97 Vicarage Rd, Wolverhampton**
3 Bed Semi Detached House
**Guide: £34,000 - £39,000**

Viewing 27th Apr 16:15 & 4th May 16:15

**15 Tozer Street, Tipton**
3 Bed End Terraced House
**Guide: £24,000 - £29,000**

Viewing 30th Apr 14:45 & 4th May 11:00

**11 Hickman Road, Bilston**
3 Bed End Terraced House
**Guide: £19,000 - £24,000**

Viewing 27th Apr 10:45 & 4th May 10:45

**14 Caroline St, West Bromwich**
3 Bed Mid Terraced House
**Guide: £29,000 - £34,000**

Viewing 30th Apr 15:45 & 4th May 10:00

**129 Coronation Rd, Wednesbury**
3 Bed Semi Detached House
**Guide: £49,000 - £54,000**

Viewing 27th Apr 14:45 & 4th May 14:45

**72 Langstone Road, Dudley**
3 Bed Semi Detached House
**Guide: £29,000 - £34,000**

Viewing 27th Apr 11:30 & 4th May 11:30

**7 Windsor Avenue, Oldbury**
3 Bed Semi Detached House
**Guide: £50,000 plus**

Viewing 30th Apr 14:00 & 4th May 11:45

**1 Dresden Close, Wolverhampton**
3 Bed Semi Detached House
**Guide: £49,000 - £54,000**

Viewing 27th Apr 13:15 & 4th May 13:15

**2 Yew Tree Hills, Dudley**
3 Bed Detached House
**Guide: £29,000 - £34,000**

Viewing 27th Apr 14:00 & 4th May 14:00

**17 Windsor Crescent, Netherton**
3 Bed Mid Terraced House
**Guide: £39,000 - £44,000**

Viewing 30th Apr 10:00 & 4th May 15:45

**79 Pargeter Street, Walsall**
2 Bed End Terraced House
**Guide: £19,000 - £24,000**

Viewing 30th Apr 11:00 & 4th May 14:45

**308 Deans Rd, Wolverhampton**
2 Bed Semi Detached House
**Guide: £19,000 - £24,000**

Viewing 27th Apr 9:45 & 4th May 9:45

**100 Barford Road, Edgbaston**
4 Bed Mid Terraced House
**Guide: £50,000 plus**

Viewing 30th Apr 13:00 & 4th May 13:00

**68 Maxwell Rd, Wolverhampton**
3 Bed Residential Investment House
Current Gross Income: £5,100 pa
**Guide: £19,000 - £24,000**

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**Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots* ***For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website*

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1 CROXSTALLS AVE, BLOXWICH

- Unit Approx 6,775 sq ft (629.4 sq m)
- 5 Tonnes Overhead Crane
- Additional Parking/Side Yard
- J10 of M6 2 Miles Distant
- EPC Not Required

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LOOK OUT FOR THE LATEST HOMES FOR SALE AND TO LET EVERY WEDNESDAY

Our weekly full colour supplement contains hundreds of the latest homes to buy and let across the region. Get your copy every Wednesday from your newsagent. If you are an estate agent and you want to reach our 203,000* regular readers contact one of our sales representatives.

*SOURCE: JICREG 01.04.2014

An Express & Star supplement

# PROPERTY

## Charming home is situated in an enviable position

OLDBURY <<<

**This charming detached property in Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury occupies an enviable position, being set back from the road.**

**It is for sale through Robert Oulsnam, having just been reduced to £329,950.**

**The generously sized family home has accommodation including up to five double bedrooms - with en suite shower rooms to bedrooms four and five.**

**It also has three reception rooms allowing adequate space for living and dining, a spacious breakfast kitchen complete with some integrated appliances, and ample off road parking.**

**For the 'green fingered' buyer, the property offers luscious gardens to the rear, which are packed full of mature plants, shrubs and trees. The conservatory to the rear provides beautiful views across the green**

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Don't miss out on our 1 and 2 bedroom apartments at The Courtyard. These privately gated apartments come with an impressive specification fitted as standard, including kitchen appliances and carpets.

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*(full purchase price £96,995).*

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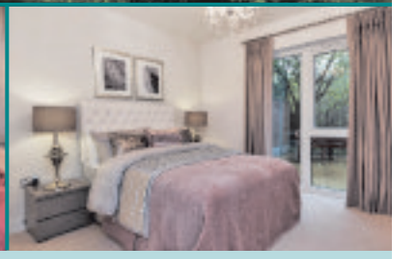

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CGI shows the apartment block at The Courtyard. Elevations and finishes may vary. Interior Photographs of a typical Kier showhome.*Help to Buy is available upon request subject to terms and conditions.

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### Chatsworth Close
Willenhall

3 Bedroom end terraced house with no upward chain, entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom, central heating and double glazing (where specified) front and rear gardens, call Paul Dubberley to view. EPC - F

**OFFERS AROUND: £125,000**

### Hawkswell Drive
Willenhall

STAR BUY
Well Presented Two Bedroom Family Home On The Sought After "Hadley Heath" Estate. Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, 30ft Conservatory To The Side, Two Bedrooms And Family Shower Room. The Property Also Benefits From Driveway, And Large Secluded Rear Garden.

**OFFERS AROUND: £129,995**

### Tarn Close
Wolverhampton

Brand New Build Terraced Property On The "Park Edge" Development By Lioncourt Homes.Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Guest Cloakroom, Two Bedrooms And Family Bathroom. Property Further Benefits From Rear Garden And Off Road Parking.

**OFFERS AROUND: £129,995**

### Stanier Close
Walsall

NO CHAIN IDEAL 1ST TIME BUY OR BUY TO LET
The Property Comprises Of; Reception Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Allocated Parking & Rear Garden. The Property Further Benefits From UPVc Double Glazing & Electric Heating!

**OFFERS AROUND: £110,000**

### Stowheath Lane
Wolverhampton

Well Presented Two Bedroom Mid Terrace Home With Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating, Briefly Comprising Of; Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom, Two Bedrooms And Enclosed Rear Garden.

VIEWINGS HIGHLY RECOMENDED! NO CHAIN! EPC D

**OFFERS AROUND: £85,000**

### Arnhem Road
Willenhall

Immaculate 3 bedroom terraced house, entrance porch and hallway, downstairs wc, modern fitted kitchen/diner, lounge, utility area, modern bathroom, double glazing and central heating, front and rear gardens, no upward chain, call Paul Dubberley to view. EPC rating-C

**OFFERS AROUND: £103,000**

### Hinchliffe Avenue
Bilston

3 Bedroom Semi detached house, Driveway and Garage, Entrance Porch, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Double Glazed where specified and Central Heating. Call for more details.

**OFFERS AROUND: £124,950**

### Berrington Drive
Coseley

This is the one Lovely 3 bedroom modern semi detached house in great condition, entrance porch and hallway, modern kitchen and office area/dining area, downstairs wc, conservatory, modern shower room, double glazing and central heating, driveway, garage and garden, call now for details.

**OFFERS AROUND: £149,950**

### St Chads Road
Bilston

New to market No upward chain on this 2 bedroom detached bungalow, entrance porch and hallway, 2 bedrooms, lounge, kitchen/diner, shower room, central heating and double glazing (where specified) driveway providing off road parking and rear garden, call now to view.

**OFFERS AROUND: £119,950**

### Great Bridge Road
Bilston

3 Bedroom traditional semi detached house with no upward chain, main and side entrances, kitchen, lounge, dining room, shower room, part double glazing and central heating (both where specified) driveway and garden, note we hold a mining report on file and available to view.

**OFFERS AROUND: £87,500**

### New Road
Willenhall

UNIQUE APARTMENT IN CONVERTED DEVELOPMENT IMMACULATELY PRESENTED SHOW HOME STYLE Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen Diner With Island, Two Good Sized Bedrooms (Master With Ensuite Shower Room), And Family Bathroom. EPC - C

**OFFERS AROUND: £130,000**

### Ivy Grove
Walsall

EXECUTIVE DETACHED HOME HIGH SPECIFICATION THROUGHOUT NOT TO BE MISSED Porch, Entrance Hall, Three Reception Rooms, Breakfast Kitchen, Large Conservatory, Utility, Storage Room, Four Good Sized Bedrooms, Master Ensuite And Family Bathroom. The Property Further Benefits From Driveway To Front, And Landscaped Rear Garden!

**OFFERS AROUND: £230,000**

### Blakenall Lane
Walsall

Paul Dubberley Are Pleased To Present This Extended Three Bedroom Family Home. Benefiting From Gas Central Heating And Double Glazing, The Property Comprises Of, Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Downstairs Shower Room, Three Bedrooms And Family Bathroom.

**OFFERS AROUND: £115,000**

### Harvesters Road
Willenhall

NO UPWARD CHAIN 3 Bedroom semi detached house, entrance porch and hallway, kitchen/diner, lounge, downstairs wc, bathroom, double glazing and central heating(where specified), driveway and garage, front and rear gardens. EPC- E

VIEWING ADVISED

**OFFERS AROUND: £110,000**

### Paul Pursehouse Road
Bilston

Great size and condition With this 3 bedroom semi detached house, entrance hallway, lounge/diner, modern kitchen, utility area, lovely modern bathroom, wc, double glazing and central heating, concrete print driveway, good size rear garden, no upward chain, call now to arrange your viewing.

**OFFERS AROUND: £127,500**

### Bushbury Road
Wolverhampton

3 Bedroom end terraced house with no upward chain, has to be viewed to appreciate, 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen, modern bathroom, central heating and double glazing (where specified) parking and rear garden.

**OFFERS AROUND: £110,000**

### Bradleys Lane
Coseley

NEW Immaculate and refurbished 3 bedroom traditional detached house, entrance porch and hallway, lounge, beautiful kitchen/diner, conservatory, downstairs wc, modern bathroom, central heating and double glazing, garage and driveway, front and rear gardens, no upward chain, call Paul Dubberley to view.

**OFFERS AROUND: £189,995**

### Lawnside Green
Bilston

New to market 3 Bedroom terraced house on the popular Stowlawn estate, good size rooms and comprising, driveway, entrance porch and hallway, downstairs wc, lounge/diner, modern kitchen, modern bathroom, central heating and double glazing, rear garden, no upward chain, call now for details.

**OFFERS AROUND: £115,000**

### Spring Road
Wolverhampton

New to market Good size and potential with this 3 bedroom end terraced house and no upward chain, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom, good size bedrooms, garden to rear and the land to side including income from the advertising board, call now for a viewing. Please note we hold a mining report on the property.

**OFFERS AROUND: £129,950**

### Humphries Crescent
Bilston

A newly exclusive development of 3 detached bungalows, shared tarmacked driveway leading to gravelled parking at front of bungalow. Comprising entrance hall, en-suite to main bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, lounge, double glazing and central heating, driveway and gardens.

**OFFERS AROUND: £165,000**

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# Walsall
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Goodchilds FOR SALE

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### 50 Park Road,Bloxwich

- Portfolio of 5 Apartments
- Currently Achieving £31,000 Per Annum
- Built in 2008
- Private Secure Car Park
- Close to Bloxwich High Street
- Remaining NHBC Warranty
- 117 Remaining on Lease
- Viewing Essential
- Good Investment
- Sought After Location

**£585,000**

### Westhall Gate,Bloxwich

- Exclusive Three Storey Detached
- Four Bedrooms
- Master with En-Suite & Walk in Wardrobe
- Impressive Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Lounge & Conservatory
- Dining Room
- Office Space
- Cinema/Entertainment Room

**Offers in Excess of £350,000**

### Marlpool Drive,Pelsall

- Executive Five Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Guest Cloakroom W.C.
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite

**£300,000**

### Long Lane,Great Wyrley

- Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Extended Lounge & Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Extended Bedrooms
- Overlooking Fields to Rear
- Driveway
- Downstairs WC
- Garage

**Offers in Excess of £205,000**

REDUCED

### Vernon Way,Walsall

- Two/Three Bedroom
- One/Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- En-Suite Shower Room
- Ample Off Road Parking
- Gated Access
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Viewing Essential

**Offers in Excess of £179,000**

### Lord Street,Walsall

- No Upward Chain
- Queen Mary's & Blue Coat Schools Nearby
- Several Primary Schools locally
- Two Reception Rooms
- Garage
- Kitchen/Diner

**£165,000**

REDUCED

### Sneyd Lane,Walsall

- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- EXTENDED LIVING KITCHEN AREA
- BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY
- PORCH
- DELIGHTFUL REAR GARDEN
- DETACHED GARAGE
- THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS
- REFITTED BATHROOM
- UTILITY & GUEST CLOAKROOM
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL

**£150,000**

### Waters Keep,Walsall

- Light and Airy Lounge
- Spacious Kitchen / Diner
- Downstairs W.C
- Rear French Doors
- Three Spacious Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Useful Storage Space
- 10 Year NHBC Warranty

**From £130,995**

### 50 Park Road,Bloxwich

- Built in 2008
- Achieving £6600 P.A
- Private Secure Parking
- Security Gated Entrance
- Spacious Apartment
- Largest Apartment in Block

**£125,000**

### 50 Park Road,Bloxwich

- Built in 2008
- Achieving £6300 P.A
- Private Secure Parking
- Security Gated Entrance
- Second Floor Apartment
- Other Apartments Available
- Viewing Essential
- Sought After Location

**£115,000**

NEW

### Terret Close,Walsall

- Modern Two Bedroom Apartment
- Located Close to Walsall Town Centre
- Secure Gated Car Park
- Allocated Parking Space
- Secure Communal Entrance
- Fitted Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Double Glazing and Electric Heating
- No Upward Chain
- Viewing Essential

**£90,000**

NEW

### Fishley Lane,Bloxwich

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Modern Finish Throughout
- Ideal For First Time Buyers & Investors
- Spacious Open Plan Living Area
- Good Sized Double Bedroom
- Allocated & Visitor Parking
- Shared Garden Areas
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- NO CHAIN

**£85,000**

### Waters Keep,Walsall

- Light and Airy Lounge
- Spacious Kitchen / Diner
- Downstairs W.C
- Rear French Doors
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

**From £114,995**

### Drake Road,Bloxwich

- No Chain
- Sought After Location
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Three Generous Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Popular Cul-de-Sac
- Near Bloxwich High Street

**Offers in the Region Of £110,000**

### Penderel Street,Bloxwich

- No Chain
- Ideal First Time Purchase
- Suitable Buy-to-Let Investment
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating

**Offers Over £100,000**

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REDUCED

### Lincoln Road,Chuckery

- Much Extended & Improved Property
- Two Storey Rear Extension
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Block Paved Driveway
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Further potential to improve
- Viewing Essential
- Sought After Location

**£195,000**

REDUCED

### Tannery Court,Walsall

- Brand New Three Storey Property
- 10 Year NHBC Warranty
- Garage
- New Development in the Heart Of Walsall
- Show Home Available to View
- Viewing Essential
- Close To Town Centre
- Sought After Location
- Great School Catchment Area
- No Chain

**Offers in the Region Of £190,000**

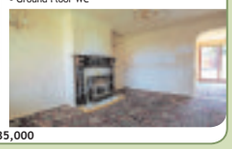
### Goscote Lane,Walsall

- 'The Heathside' Four Bedroom Property
- Built by Walton Homes in 2014
- Beautifully Presented Throughout
- Remaining NHBC Warranty
- Driveway
- Popular Modern Development

**£180,000**

### The Orchard,Walsall

- Sought After Location
- Close to Walsall Academy
- Modern Detached Property
- Corner of the Cul-de-Sac
- Ample Off Road Parking & Garage
- Modernisation Required
- Extended Kitchen/Utility Area
- Ground Floor WC



**£185,000**

### Waters Keep,Walsall

- Light and Airy Lounge
- Spacious Kitchen/Diner
- Downstairs W.C
- Rear French Doors
- Three Spacious Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

**From £141,995**

NEW

### Jesson Close,Walsall

- NO CHAIN
- SECURE GATED DEVELOPMENT
- DELIGHTFUL COMMUNAL GROUNDS
- SHARE OF THE FREEHOLD
- ALLOCATED PARKING SPACE
- GARAGE
- FITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- PRIVATE PATIO AREA

**£135,000**

REDUCED

### Wilkes Avenue,Bentley

- Traditional Detached Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Side Garage
- Driveway
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Close to King Charles Primary School
- Great Potential to Improve/Extend
- Located Close to M6 J10
- Viewing Essential
- CASH BUYERS ONLY

**Offers in Excess of £130,000**

REDUCED

### Ingledew Close,Bentley

- No Upward Chain
- Off Road Parking
- Garage
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Sought After Location
- Reputable Schools Nearby
- Transport Links to Wolverhampton
- Transport Links to Walsall
- Sought After Location
- Viewing Essential

**Offers in Excess of £120,000**

### Rochester Croft,Reedswood

- Superb Modern End of Terrace
- Rear Gated Driveway
- Block Paved Driveway to the Fore
- Sought After Modern Development
- Easy Access to M6 J10
- Close to Reedswood Retail Park

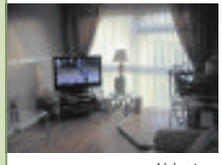
**£135,000**

### Rochester Croft,Reedswood

- No Chain
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Conservatory
- Off Road Parking
- Private Rear Garden
- Set in the Corner of a Cul-de-Sac

**£120,000**

REDUCED



### Livingstone Road,Walsall

- Two Bedrooms
- Third Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Raised Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Entrance Hall
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- No Upward Chain

**Offers in Excess of £64,000**

### Hollemeadow Avenue,Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

**£100,000**

### West Bromwich Road,Walsall

- Three Bedroom Period Style Terrace
- Through Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Located Close to Whitehall School
- Gas Central Heating
- Suitable Buy-to-Let (Achieving £475pcm)

**£95,000**

### 1, Church Place,Walsall

- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Kitchen & Living Area
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- White Bathroom Suite
- Ample Storage
- Allocated Parking

**Offers in the Region Of £85,000**

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### Walsall Road,Walsall Wood
- Superbly Designed Detached Bungalow
- Set on 0.8 Acre Plot
- Three Bedrooms all having En-Suites
- Grand Entrance Hallway
- Lounge with Inglenook Fireplace
- Fitted Kitchen

**Offers in the Region Of £450,000**

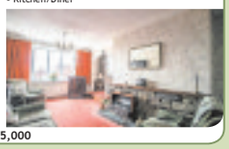
### New Street,Shelfield
- Detached House
- Two Bedroom Self Contained Annexe
- Detached Double Garage
- Ample Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Three Bedrooms

**Offers in the Region Of £270,000**

### Lichfield Road,Shire Oak
- Detached Family Home
- Close to Shire Oak Academy
- Excellent Transport Links to Local Towns
- Extension Potential
- Superb Front & Rear Gardens
- Side Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Ground Floor WC

**Offers in the Region Of £220,000**

### Tor Way,Pelsall
- NO CHAIN
- Spacious Living Accomodation
- Further Scope for Improvement
- Detached Garage
- Generous Rear Garden
- Driveway
- Popular Cul-de-Sac Location
- Kitchen/Diner



**£215,000**

### Norton Road,Pelsall
- Link Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Bathroom
- Lounge
- Off Road Parking

**£190,000**

### Church Road,Norton Canes
- Delightful Link Detached Family Home
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Spacious Lounge
- Three Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom
- Tandem Garage
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Sought After Area of Norton Canes

**£186,950**

### Friezland Lane,Shire Oak
- Delightful Three Bedroom Detached
- Ample Block Paved Driveway
- Garage
- Superb Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Recently Refitted Bathroom
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Close to Shire Oak Academy

**£180,000**

### Lawnoaks Close,Brownhills
- Detached Property
- Ample Driveway
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Short Walk to Chasewater Country Park
- Access to the A5 and M6 Toll
- Brownhills West School Nearby
- Conservatory
- Kitchen/Diner

**Offers in Excess of £180,000**

### Pelsall Road,Brownhills
- Spacious Period Style End of Terrace
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Two Reception Rooms
- Victorian Style Luxury Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking

**£179,950**

### Watling Street,Brownhills
- No Upward Chain
- Superb Extended Kitchen
- Lounge with Log Burner
- Second Reception Room
- Useful Loft Space
- Some Work Required
- Off Road Parking
- Garage

**Offers in the Region Of £159,950**

### Hednesford Road,Brownhills
- No Upward Chain
- Extended Link Detached
- Detached Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- Three Generous Bedrooms
- Extended Kitchen
- Two Receptions Rooms

**£155,000**

### Moorhen Close,Brownhills
- No Upward Chain
- Recently Upgraded Internally
- Modern Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Ground Floor WC
- Block Paved Driveway
- Detached Garage
- Rear Garden
- Gas Central Heating

**Offers in Excess of £135,000**

### Hussey Road,Brownhills
- Three Bedrooms
- Spacious Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Modern Bathroom
- Conservatory
- First Floor WC
- Private Rear Garden
- Popular Residential Area

**£129,950**

### Spring Close,Shelfield
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Deceptively Spacious Property
- No Chain
- Off Road Parking
- Private Rear Garden
- Sought After High Heath Area

**£125,000**

### High Street,Brownhills
- No Chain
- Two Bedrooms
- Secure Entrance
- Delightful Communal Gardens
- Lifts
- Hairdressers
- Laundry Facility
- Communal Lounge & Dining Rooms
- Over 55's Complex
- House Manager

**£94,950**

### Great Charles Street,Brownhills
- Beautifully Presented Semi-Detached
- Ideal First Time Buyer's Home
- Suitable Buy-to-Let
- Off Road Parking
- Ground Floor WC
- Close to Popular Schools
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing

**£120,000**

### Profitt Close,Shire Oak
- No Chain
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Fitted Bathroom
- Suitable Buy-to-Let

**£105,000**

### Lichfield Road,Shelfield
- Stunning 2 Bedroom Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Contemporary Decor
- Modern Fitted Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Allocated parking space
- NO CHAIN

**£95,000**

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The Chronicle Thursday, April 28, 2016

# It's absolutely fabulous!

## By James Parker

**No prizes for guessing the chassis that underpins this latest Fabia.**

Yes, it's the Volkswagen Group's MQB platform, an almost infinitely customisable floorpan that's compatible with a whole range of engine, suspension components and electronic control systems. This means that Skoda can build as many clever safety systems in as budget permits. It's simply a box-ticking exercise when specifying a new model.

Power in the mainstream line-up comes courtesy of three and four-cylinder diesel and petrol engines, with outputs ranging between 59bhp to 108bhp. Dealers expect that around 90 per cent of sales will be petrol-powered, split between the1.2- litre four and 1.0-litre three-cylinder engines. The 1.2-litre unit is markedly quicker and more refined and Skoda has worked hard to endow the Fabia with a supple ride, decent body control and low-effort steering.

The MK2 Fabia model had a series of quite well-established design cues. It was narrowish with tall hips and, unless you bought the sportier variants, tended to look a bit under-wheeled. The latest car looks a good deal burlier, with pronounced wheel arch flares and a lot more shape built into the flanks. Skoda has claimed that this design is a new direction for them, encompassing 'more emotions', albeit not at the expense of practicality. As before, there's a five-door hatch bodystyle, or an estate with a class-leading 530-litre boot capacity.

With the hatch variant, the boot is also the largest within the car's segment at 330-litres, which is 15-litres more than the previous model. With the rear seats folded down in Hatch models, loading capacity increases to up to 1,150-litres. The loading area is 960mm wide, which is 2cm wider than the previous car.

Inside you'll find a cabin that's slightly longer and larger than in the previous model and at the same time provides the driver and passengers with increased headroom. Although the MK3 Fabia is 8mm shorter than its predecessor, its interior length has increased by around 8mm to 1,674mm. Elbow room is also greater at 1,401mm (21mm longer) at the front and 1,386mm (2mm longer) at the rear.

There's a choice of either five-door hatch or esatate bodystyles. Prices start at just under the £11,000 mark for S-spec models, so this Fabia is no longer a bargain amongst superminis. There's a £1,000 premium if you want the Estate. Even the base trim level is well equipped, inclusive of items like six airbags, a DAB digital radio, an engine start/stop system and power front windows. Most will want the SE variants with their air conditioning, alloy wheels, uprated stereo, MirrorLink system, surround sound stereo and Front Assist Package. Finally, the top 'SE L' trim includes larger 16-inch alloy wheels, climate control, keyless entry and cruise control.

The Fabia is designed to be practical and the company has announced a range of 'simply clever' features. The biggie is MirrorLink technology. This allows smartphone apps to be displayed on the screen of the infotainment system which, amongst other things, takes the use of navigation software or personal music files to a new level. There's a multimedia device cradle in the centre console, an ice scraper in the fuel filler cap and a high-vis vest, now mandatory in many countries, in a convenient dedicated storage compartment in the driver's door. There are personalisation options such as contrasting wheels, roof panels and mirror cappings and those big wheelarches will easily house 17-inch alloys. The Volkswagen Polo acts as a natural cap on the Fabia's price and the Czech company needs to maintain a significant buffer zone between the two models in order to attract orders.

**The Fabia is designed to be practical and the company has announced a range of 'simply clever' features**

The 1.2-litre engine turns in some excellent economy figures. In the old Fabia, you could count on around 53mpg from the 1.2-litre unit; now you're good for 60.1mpg with emissions dropping to just 107g/km. Those figures improve largely because the Fabia is lighter than before. In 1.2-litre guise, it tips the scales at just 1034kg and across the range, there are efficiency improvements that average 17 per cent.

Fabias have always held very firm when it comes to residual values, used buyers valuing the Volkswagen Group input and resolute build quality. Insurance has also been very cheap, reflecting the mature owner profile.


SIMPLY CLEVER

ŠKODA

*To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance, War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, Enhanced Rate Mobility Component of Personal Independence Payment or Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP). Nil advance payment applies to ŠKODA Fabia Hatch S, SE and colour edition models (except SE 1.4 TDI Man and DSG at £95), ŠKODA Yeti S and SE models (2WD only), and all ŠKODA Octavia S Hatch models. Available with free metallic/special colour paint choices. ŠKODA Fabia Hatch shown is S 1.0 MPI 60PS. ŠKODA Octavia Hatch shown is S 1.6 TDI 110PS manual. ŠKODA Yeti shown is Outdoor SE L 1.2 TSI 110PS manual (from £95 advance payment) with metallic paint. Models shown are not UK specification. Prices and specifications are accurate at time of print. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time and are not available in conjunction with any other offer. Participating retailers only. Subject to availability. Valid for applications to Motability from 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016.

Official fuel consumption for the three ŠKODA models (pictured above) in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 42.2 (6.7) to 64.2 (4.4); Extra Urban 58.9 (4.8) to 83.1 (3.4); Combined 51.4 (5.5) to 74.3 (3.8). $CO_2$ emissions for the ŠKODA range are 128 to 99 g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. The advertised range is correct as of 1 April 2016 and is subject to change.

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# Roller will appeal to younger buyers

By Matt Joy

**A new Rolls Royce is a rare occasion, but its latest convertible is a creation to be savoured.**

Before the arrival of the Dawn, the Phantom Drophead Coupe was the only convertible model in the Rolls-Royce line up, and tremendous though that car is, there was clearly a need for a slightly more manageable version with a lower price tag and broader appeal. With the smaller Ghost II saloon and Wraith proving there's a market for cars beneath the Phantom range, the Dawn is designed to meet those desires.

Speak to Rolls-Royce about the Dawn and they explain how it's designed to bring more sex appeal to the brand and attract younger customers – in fact, they go as far as describing it as "the sexiest Rolls-Royce ever built".

That's for you to judge, but the Dawn gets a unique exterior, folding fabric roof and four-seater cabin, as well as the brand's superlative standards of refinement and build quality.

Choice is something of a misnomer when it comes to specifying your Dawn because you can have any colour you like, but it's more crucial than ever to pick right when it comes to this particular car.

More sober hues lend an air of discretion, but go for a lighter paint shade and a contrast roof and you can really see the modern influences.

The Dawn has an almost California look to it, thanks to the wheelarches stretched tightly over the wheels and the slimmed down glass area.

## Supremely

It's not so extreme as to frighten off older buyers, but at the same time, if you start seeing Dawns cropping up in LA-set music videos, don't be surprised. This really is a Royce for the YouTube generation.

Rolls-Royce isn't big on compromise either, so although the Dawn is billed as a 2+2, it's a bit more generous than that.

Up front of course there's plenty of space, roof up or down, and although the wide centre console keeps you enclosed, it is in a comfortable manner.

The rear space however makes the Dawn a genuine four-seater. The seats themselves are supremely comfortable, and even sat behind a six-footer there's good legroom available.

The roof is the key element to the Dawn driving experience. With it raised, the cabin is cocooned and remarkably quiet, due in part to the effort Rolls-Royce put in with the six layers of fabric and 'French seam' stitching. It lowers in 22 seconds and in beautifully-engineered silence, and you can lower it driving at up to 31mph.

However you have the roof, the Dawn delivers a sumptuous driving experience you simply can't find elsewhere. While the physical differences between it and the Phantom are relatively small, the Dawn is more engaging to drive and happy to be hurried briskly along country roads, but still, it always demands very little of you.

The 6.6-litre V12 barely emits a murmur, but is always ready to provide rapid and effort-free acceleration.

There's not much in the way of competition at its basic price of £250,000.

It's spectacular to look out from the outside with a flawless finish, while inside, there is a delightful mix of wood, leather and metal trim.

More so than the rest of the Rolls-Royce range, the Dawn does have a little more to offer the younger buyer. Regardless of their demographic, buyers are attracted to quality of design and thoughtfulness of execution, which the Dawn is a perfect example of.

This car summed up in a single word: Magnificent

### TESTED

**Rolls-Royce Dawn, £250,000**

**Engine:6.6-litre** petrol unit producing 563bhp and 575lb/t of torque

**Transmission:** Eight-speed automatic gearbox driving the rear wheels

**Performance:** Top speed 155mph, 0-62mph in 4.9 seconds

**Economy:** 19.9 mpg combined

**Emissions:** 330g/km of CO2


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| Fixed rate of interest (per annum) | 5.1% |
| Representative | 9.9% APR |
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| One final payment (GFV) | £3,587.50 |
| Total amount payable | £10,959.18 |
| Duration of agreement (months) | 49 |
| Selected annual mileage | 6,000 |
| Excess mileage charge | 9p per mile |

16 PLATE UNUSED
**Meriva 1.4i 16v Life 5dr**
1 ONLY

9.9% APR REPRESENTATIVE
£147.53 PER MONTH

Personal Contract Purchase example:
**Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 Life 5dr**

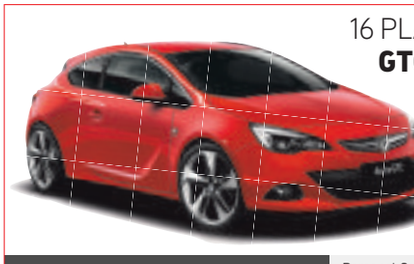
| | |
|---|---|
| Cash price of car | £10,999.00 |
| Customer deposit | £2,500.00 |
| Amount of credit | £8,499.00 |
| Total charge for credit | £2,439.94 |
| Fixed rate of interest (per annum) | 5.1% |
| Representative | 9.9% APR |
| 48 monthly payments | £147.53 |
| One final payment (GFV) | £3,857.50 |
| Total amount payable | £13,438.94 |
| Duration of agreement (months) | 49 |
| Selected annual mileage | 6,000 |
| Excess mileage charge | 9p per mile |

16 PLATE UNUSED
**Corsa 1.4 Energy 3dr**
2 ONLY

9.9% APR REPRESENTATIVE
£178.81 PER MONTH
£178 DEPOSIT

Personal Contract Purchase example:
**Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 Energy 3dr**

| | |
|---|---|
| Cash price of car | £9,999.00 |
| Customer deposit | £178.00 |
| Amount of credit | £9,821.00 |
| Total charge for credit | £2,731.88 |
| Fixed rate of interest (per annum) | 5.1% |
| Representative | 9.9% APR |
| 48 monthly payments | £178.81 |
| One final payment (GFV) | £3,970.00 |
| Total amount payable | £12,730.88 |
| Duration of agreement (months) | 49 |
| Selected annual mileage | 6,000 |
| Excess mileage charge | 9p per mile |



16 PLATE UNUSED
**GTC Coupé 1.4T 16v Sport**
1 ONLY

9.9% APR REPRESENTATIVE
£200.98 PER MONTH
£2499 DEPOSIT

Personal Contract Purchase example:
**Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4T Sport 3dr**

| | |
|---|---|
| Cash price of car | £13,999.00 |
| Customer deposit | £2,499.00 |
| Amount of credit | £11,500.00 |
| Total charge for credit | £1,960.18 |
| Fixed rate of interest (per annum) | 5.1% |
| Representative | 9.9% APR |
| 48 monthly payments | £200.98 |
| One final payment (GFV) | £5,140.00 |
| Total amount payable | £17,286.04 |
| Duration of agreement (months) | 49 |
| Selected annual mileage | 6,000 |
| Excess mileage charge | 9p per mile |

65 PLATE UNUSED
**Corsa 1.2 Ltd Edition 3dr**
5 ONLY

6.8% APR REPRESENTATIVE
£151.31 PER MONTH
£151 DEPOSIT

Personal Contract Purchase example:
**Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 & 1.4 Ltd Edition 3dr**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cash price of car | £9,999.00 | 48 monthly payments | £151.31 |
| Customer deposit | £151.00 | One final payment (GFV) | £4,555.00 |
| Amount of credit | £9,848.00 | Total amount payable | £11,968.88 |
| Total charge for credit | £1,969.88 | Duration of agreement (months) | 49 |
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**GOLDSHILL SKIPS**
Bring your own waste cheaper than skips. General, Green, Wood waste any size vehicle. Phone for prices:
0121 557 3346

**GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE LTD.** Mini, midi, maxi, large skips. Fast, friendly & reliable service. Monday to Saturday, 6 day service. Call: 0121 555 6060.

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

**IT WORKS FOR ME**
"We are very happy with our Classified Contract within the Express & Star and the enquiries our adverts bring in."
*Pally - Quika Skips*
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

## tree services

**BUDGET TREE SURGERY** Tall or small. Conifers & hedge trimming. Shrubs pruned, tidy ups & make overs 01215053558/ 07936882552

## upholstery

**MR B'S UPHOLSTERY**
Re-Upholstering of Sofas, Dining Furniture, Caravans, Car Retrims and more.
www.mrbsupholstery.co.uk
01543 509677
07738 851601

# 4 Pets & Animals

## equestrian corner

**ALL READERS** are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

## guns & dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

## pets corner

C.A.A.R.S PET RESCUE
*Registered Charity*
PET RESCUE & BOARDING KENNELS
FOR DOGS AND CATS
*Open Mon to Sun*
Call 01922 476208
Red Lane off Crab Lane
Essington WV11 2DZ

**GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS**
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
RGT Wolverhampton
@RGTWolves

**NOTICE TO READERS**
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**POODLE DOG SPECIALIST** Clipping and Grooming. Contact: 07855 405022 / 01543 876145.

**YORKIE X PUPPIES** Very small. Nice puppies. 11 weeks old. £100 to good homes. 07468 039496.

# 5 Business & Farming

## business opportunities

**READERS** are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

## commercial premises sale / let

**OFFICE TO RENT** Furnished, Car park. 1/2 Mile J9 M6. £30PW inc. Monthly terms 07545 909693

# 6 Property

## accommodation to let

**NOTICE TO READERS** It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**TWO BED** terraced house, Cemetery Road, Cannock, in excellent condition, electric heating, DG, £475pcm plus deposit, no DSS, refs required. 07932 156115.

## overseas property

**NOTICE TO READERS**
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

## properties wanted

EVERY TIME!
**WE PAY 100% of purchase price**
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
**We buy any house**
● FAMILY BUSINESS ● COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
● FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE ● NO FEES/FREE SOLICITORS
WE ALSO BUY LAND
30 yrs
**0800 999 999 6**
or 01902 628047 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

**Home Cash Buyer**
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
**Houses / Land Required**
Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

**PROPERTIES WANTED**
✔ Any area
✔ Any circumstances
✔ Any condition
Direct Sale | No Chains | No Stress
Fast CASH completion
Call Jack on 07507 865668

# 7 Jobs

## dentistry

**FULL TIME QUALIFIED DENTAL NURSE**/Trainee dental nurse required for a modern, friendly, forward looking practice. Good rates of pay and conditions Walsall 01922 477400.

## drivers

**EXPERIENCED CLASS 2 DRIVER** required for Skip Hire company in Aldridge. Must have CPC. Temp-Perm contract. £9 p.h. Call 01922 745718 between 10am-2.30pm

## full time - general

**FAIRFAX SADDLES** Walsall require Full time experienced. *Leather Preparer. *Sewing Machinist. *Bridle Preparer ,*Bridle Cutter Please contact Ian Yardley on 07740 876800 or ian@fairfaxsaddles.com

**FAIRFAX SADDLES**
Walsall
*require*
*Full time experienced.*
• LEATHER PREPARER
• SEWING MACHINIST
• BRIDLE PREPARER
• BRIDLE CUTTER
Please contact
Ian Yardley on
07740 876800 or
ian@fairfaxsaddles.com

## part time - general

**NEWS DELIVERERS**
needed in the
**Mossley area of Bloxwich**
Please contact
**Customer Services on**
**0800 174064.**

**HOUSING OFFICER**
In Social housing, Delves Walsall 29.5 hours per week. Salary £18,419.04 pro rata Applicants must have a proven track record in the delivery of all aspects of housing management in a similar job role. Recruitment packs available on
01922 720790
or email sheila.bromwich@watmos.org.uk or can be downloaded from the WATMOS website Closing date 6/5/16.

CHAPMANS
**SALES PERSON**
CHAPMAN'S ELECTRICAL an established, multi-brand, electrical retailer seeks to recruit a dynamic, pro-active individual with a proven track record in retail sales to add value to their Cradley branch team.
Experience of face-to-face selling is essential along with strong customer service and sales administration skills.
An understanding of the White Goods sector is desirable.
Salary dependant upon experience.
**Please send your CV as an expression of interest to janel@chapmanselectrical.co.uk**
*We are an equal opportunities employer; applications are considered on merit & welcomed from all sections of the community.*

**HGV TRAILER TECHNICIANS**
CARTWRIGHT
Due to continuing growth in our Repair and Refurbishment business we have vacancies for additional experienced Trailer Technicians. These are workshop-based roles with competitive pay rates and potential for regular overtime working.
**Please send a CV with a covering note to:**
**Richard Edmunds**
**Workshop Manager**
**Cartwright Fleet Services Ltd**
**Westgate, Aldridge WS9 8EZ or email to**
**richard-edmunds@cartwrightfleetservices.co.uk**

# 8 Motoring

## cars over £1500

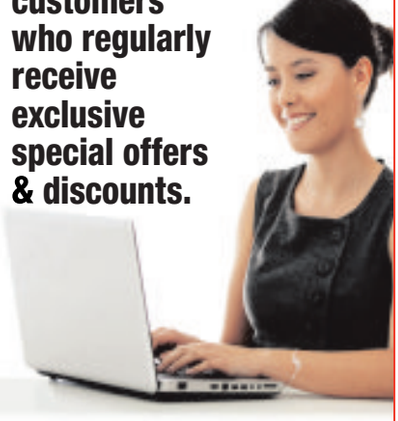
SELLING YOUR CAR?
**We have a package to suit every budget.**
Packages start from as little as
**£21.00 for 6 nights**
**Plus**
6 nights free if you do not sell.
CALL
01902 317878

**CITROEN XSARA PICASSO** Desire, 16 valve, 2006, silver, long MoT, air con, CD/radio, electric windows/mirrors, excellent condition, £1,595. 07739 837137.

**HYUNDAI i20**
2012, Hyundai FSH, comes with manufacturers warranty breakdown cover, £30 road tax, central locking, air conditioning, MoT till March 2017.
Immaculate condition throughout.
**£3,950.**
**07973 525533.**

**LANDROVER FREELANDER TD4 XS**
2012 (62 Reg), 28,855 miles, sat nav, fsh, one very careful owner, beautiful condition.
**£16,000 o.n.o.**
**01785 240855.**

**BOOK YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS OR FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLINE AT**
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk
and become one of hundreds of customers who regularly receive exclusive special offers & discounts.



ClassifiedAds

• Boilers & Central Heating • Annual Services • Fires • Cookers • Landlord Certificates
**SAVE UP TO 30% ON ENERGY BILLS**
A-Rated condensing Combi Boiler, Digital Stat, Horizontal Flue, up to 7 Radiators.
Supplied and fitted from £2,495 with up to 10 year warranty (subject to annual servicing).
Outside garden tap supplied and fitted £85
**GAS PLUMBING & HEATING**
Miller Contracts Grp Ltd
Gas Plumbing Heating and Property Solutions
07774543335 or 01922 682552
Email: info@millercontracts.co.uk Web: www.millercontracts.co.uk

**VOLVO C70 COUPE**
51 reg, 2.4 petrol turbo, black with pale blue leather interior, excellent condition, 46k, MoT Sept 2016, new tyres, battery and steering pump, fsh, recommended viewing, **£2,250. 07855 857016.**

## cars under £1500

**ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED**
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**BMA** www.bmacars.com Est. Here 25 Years
**Wide Range of Cars from £500 Full Mot**
**07956 988517**
**Dale Street, Bilston, WV14 7JY**

**LAND ROVER** Freelander TD4 S Auto, diesal, Reg 01, MoT Oct, 90,000mls, blue, good condition in /out. £1,500 ono. 07539 029501.

**RENAULT CLIO** 1.6, Blk, 68,000mls, radio, CD, E/W, C/L. MoT Jan 17. Good runner, leak on sunroof. £300 ono. 07596 180028.

**TOYOTA YARIS**
2005, 3 door, 1 litre, 44,300 miles, light green, MoT to Feb 2017.
Very good condition
**£1,300**
**075388 38832**

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 CONVERTIBLE**
05 reg, metallic blue, electric roof, 50,300 miles, 12 months MoT, excellent condition.
**£895 ono.**
**0121 358 7011 / 07747 878773.**

## classic cars

**MGB ROADSTER** P Reg, 1976, one owner from new, white, 71k, some service history, MoT July, immaculate, £4,300. 0121 526 4793.

**MORRIS MINOR TRAVELLER**
1971, MoT, tax exempt, 1275 engine, 5 speed box, disk breaks, good condition.
**£7,995.**
**01785 618554 (Stafford).**

## driving tuition

**Homer's**
**10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!**
**2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered**
ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
**07432 458100 / 01562 870050**
**01384 234954 / 0121 5640090**
**01902 580065** www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

## motorbikes

**NFL MOTORCYCLE TRAINING CBT** to full licence. Call 8am - 9pm for deals 01902 494422.

**PEUGEOT TWEET 125CC** Scooter, 62 reg, 1 owner, FSH, excellent condition. £850.
Stafford 01785 613427.

**BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL**
**01902 317878**

ClassifiedAds

## scrap vehicles

**OUR ADVERTISERS** are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

**MCB**
**TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS**
**Tel: 01902 408176**
***1000's of parts available at all times***
**MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ**

## vehicle hire

**W.T.R. VAN HIRE** Connects, Transits, Lutons with Tail lifts, pick-ups Open seven days. 01902 457002 / 01384 79090.

## vehicles wanted

**CROWN MOTORS** guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

## spares & accessories

## mobile mechanics

**MOBILE MECHANICS** Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

# 9 Local Information

## public & legal notices

**LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES**
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
**Marie Hogg on 01902 713146**
**or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk**
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

**EDITH ADELINE MIDDLE (Deceased)**
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 3 Browning Close Willenhall West Midlands WV12 5JA, who died on 05/02/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 29/06/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
**THE CO-OPERATIVE LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED**
Aztec 650 Aztec West
Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD
(Ref: SSTE/3768871P/Middle) *T470310*

# 10 Personals

## personal

**NICE LADY**
WLTM Gentleman for friendship / relationship and holidays.
Must be honest and caring.
All areas considered.Box Number P20323 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**YOUNG 70 YEAR OLD**
Would like to meet a lady between 65-74 must have a great sense of humour. Must be only 12 mile from walsall would be nice if you could drive.
**Box Number P20331 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

## sports clubs

**WYRLEY JUNIORS FC**
Staffs FA community club of the year
Is looking for players aged 4 and above and Teams for the 2016/17 Season.
Sixty Teams already in place.
No experience needed - Just enthusiasm.
**Girls/Ladies contact Keith 07836 202764.**
**Boys/Men contact Sare 0750q5 074434.**

## general

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

**PERSON REQUIRED**
for gardening, also small jobs around the house.
Wednesbury area.
**Box Number P20324, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control**
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (as amended)
The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online **www.walsall.gov.uk/planning**. Representations can be made online, email: planningservices@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice. **Please note:** Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.
**16/020** Simon Jakubowski FOR: CONVERSION OF EXISTING PROPERTY INTO 6NO. APARTMENTS AT: 7, BRADFORD LANE, WALSALL
**16/0465** Gerald Owen FOR: VARIATION OF CONDITION 4 OF PLANNING PERMISSION 07/0046/WA/E1 TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL 9.2 YEARS, UNTIL 31/12/2025 TO COMPLETE THE EXISTING APPROVED SCHEME FOR THE PHASED FILLING AND RESTORATION OF HIGHFIELDS SOUTH QUARRY TO CREATE OPEN SPACE. AT: HIGHFIELDS SOUTH QUARRY, WALSALL ROAD, WALSALL WOOD, WALSALL, WS9 9AH
**16/0447** Mr Paul Broadgate FOR: CONVERSION OF EXISTING FIRST FLOOR RETAIL STORAGE AREA TO FORM A TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT. AT: HOLE IN THE WALL, 47-49, GOODALL STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1QJ
**16/0439** Sustrans FOR: ERECTION OF TWO SAFETY FENCES ON THE OLD RAILWAY BRIDGE OVER VICARAGE ROAD. AT: VICARAGE ROAD RAILWAY BRIDGE, VICARAGE ROAD, PELSALL
**16/0448** Paul Broadgate FOR: CHANGE OF USE TO ADDITIONAL APARTMENT. AT: HOLE IN THE WALL, 47-49, GOODALL STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1QJ

# Express & Star DATING

**YOUR regional dating service**, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. **REAL people in YOUR region**

Try it.. You'll love it!

Dates in **YOUR** region

## Here's how to use your dating service ...

To ***Place*** your advert call:
**0844 381 5936**
and follow the simple instructions

To ***Place*** your ad by text
Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098** **FREE** Standard Network rates apply.

***YOU*** can now ***Date ONLINE*** or via your mobile just visit:
**http://dating.expressandstar.com**

To ***Reply*** to members call:
**0906 500 3955**
calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.
Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To ***Reply*** by text:
***Text...*** **REPLY26** (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26** 123456 **hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per SMS received (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

Been left a message? ***Pickup*** your replies on:
**0906 500 3957**
calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

***THE*** biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet ***you.. visit..*** **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

## Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**JENNY**, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033**

**SHARON** a young 49, caring bubbly sincere single lady, full curvy figure, loves the coast and seaside, cosy meals in WLTM male with similar interests. **Text only Mailbox: 5444189**

**CHRIS,** 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013**

**TALL** leggy slim brunette 37, attractive and very much single, WLTM fun loving guy 40-60yrs who loves food, wine, cosy nights in or out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422029**

**PRETTY**, very fit, young 49 year old female, no baggage, seeks fit, refined male, n/s, with young outlook, for evenings out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421977**

**CILLA,** 40, tall blue eyed size 12 brunette, loves horses, country/beach walks, cosy nights infront of fire, good wine/food, WLTM similar male who appreciates my interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422009**

**TINA,** 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613**

**ANNA,** 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127**

**LOVELY** lady inside and out, likes music, art, days out, countryside, poetry, model railways, socialising, DVDs, looking for a kind hearted gent, 52+, with a caring nature and GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421935**

**FEMALE,** 60s, young looking for my age, likes singing, dancing, meals in and out, theatre, fun to be with. Single would like to meet the same. **Text only Mailbox: 5448634**

**CARING** honest female WLTM genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. Text mail box only. **Text only Mailbox: 4209465**

**MANDY** divorced independent 46yrs old, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421841**

**CURVY** Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421877**

**FEMALE** seeks male to wine and dine me, and treat me like a lady, aged between 50 and 60. **Text only Mailbox: 5444151**

**BROWN** eyed brunnie female, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTM white male for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 4400186**

**SHARON** 49, med to well built, cuddly, young at heart, happy ,easygoing, loves the coast and seaside looking for honest friendly male. **Text only Mailbox: 5444189**

**ROSEMARY** early 50s, GSOH, likes meals out, travel, etc, looking for man to share these things with. N/S. **Text only Mailbox: 5079890**

**SUE** 40s female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421809**

**REBECCA** tall slim elegant long legged romantic, sensual, professional, lots to offer, seeks similar male who also appreciates the finer things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421583**

**CARING** honest female, WLTM genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. **Text only Mailbox: 4209465**

**TRISH,** 45, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves tic, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421137**

**SUE,** 39, slim feminine brunette, caring, fun loving, independent, no ties, OHAC, loves cooking, WLTM willing male to get to know and spend quality times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421617**

**DONNA** 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on don't keep me waiting! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421567**

**SARA,** 39, home owner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455**

**ATTRACTIVE,** slim woman looking for fun and excitement with guy 35-40 pls text. **Text only Mailbox: 5419773**

**TINA,** 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613**

**MANDY,** 45, friendly outgoing arty female who loves wining/dining, looking for male to sweep me off my feet, take me out and make me feel special, reciprocation guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421503**

**SALLY** 37 blonde, blue eyed, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy tic and life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421451**

**JESSICA** 39, attractive fit/healthy blonde female enjoys travel, music, the Arts, gym, the good things in life, seeking love, laughter, LTR with similar male, 40-55yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421563**

**HI** I am Lorna 39yr old slim female, 5ft 5ins, many interests, loves music, seeking romantic male to enjoy special times together, hopefully leading to true love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421413**

**JAYNE,** 42, very pretty brunette, stylish, fun, loves the 60's, fine wine/restaurants, seeks professional gent for mutual life enhancement. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421311**

**JO** attractive 30's brunette who loves life, WLTM up for it male to enjoy nights in/out, weekends away, fun times and hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421259**

**MONICA** 35, very attractive, gorgeous curvy figure, WLTM nice male who wants to get to know a genuine black beauty to wine, dine, romance hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421241**

**46YR** old Asian lady looking for friendship maybe more with white male 50+ **Text only to Mailbox: 5404865**

**LOUISE** 35, loves meals out, WLTM tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421135**

**ANGELA,** 42, green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421115**

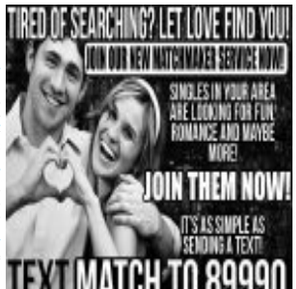
REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**MARGARET** 39, dark hair/eyed attractive petite divorcee, new to area and looking to start a new life, WLTM child friendly male, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421129**

**ANNA,** 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127**

**HONEST** sincere affectionate nurse, 48, OHAC, WLTM child friendly male/single dad for dates, chats, laughter and more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421111**

**LILY,** genuine lady looking for a genuine man. I like cosy nights in and am a smoker. **Text only mailbox no: 5372466**




**SUSANNAH,** 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

**MICHELLE** 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420791**

**DEBS** lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420729**

**JULIE,** 47, blonde brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, loves cuddling, kissing and showing affection, seeks similar energetic male friend for TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420357**

**JANE,** 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985**

**SAMANTHA** pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big hearted stocky male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420599**

**YVONNE,** single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420269**

**39** yr old independent single Mom, knows the benefit of having a good man in the picture. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084796**

**48** year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman, 48-52, for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420839**

**FEMALE,** 37, new to area, would like to meet nice trustworthy man, for friendship hopefully more. **Text only to mailbox: 5392585**

**CAROL** 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420757**

**BEV** 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420715**

**SUE,** 46, confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420701**

**CAROLINE,** 42yrs, slim attractive blonde, varied interests and solvent, WLTM honest male of any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420685**

**CHRIS,** 67, brunette, cuddly, WLTM caring, kind gentleman, for days out, meals out, walks etc and for just being together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420667**

**TRISH,** 44, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent,OHAC, affectionate and loves tic, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420601**

**MADDIE** extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420563**

**JANE** attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715**

**CHRIS,** 40, attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420491**

**SALLY,** 46, slim attractive fiesty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTM similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420475**

**LOUISE,** 47, youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420445**

**ALEXA** 49 - slim, attractive, long-haired music loving female, with many interests including dining out, the arts, photography WLTM similar male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5345662**

**CHLOE** pretty single female 38yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420359**

**ANN,38,** very attractive female, N/S, positive attitude to life, WLTM similar kind male with a lot of get up and go for romance and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420355**

**JACKIE** lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169**

**SARAH,** curvaceous brunette, 35, passionate nature, solvent, OHAC, WLTM date again, looking for male to take me out. Looks/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420207**

**LYN,** 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418795**

**LUCY,** 32, blonde, tall and slim, looking for a casual fling, nothing serious. Discretion needed and assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420237**

**JULIA** 47, looking for genuine, reasonably attractive male friend, may to lead to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419695**

**KELLY** young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTM male for mutual companionship **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420195**

**CATHY,** 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420175**

**TARA** 22 tall slim but curvy with legs that go all the way up to heaven, WLTM very appreciative confident male for adult fun. Contact me anytime. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414701**

**FEMALE,** dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking, cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5077545**

**PROFESSIONAL** black female age 52, enjoys evenings and days out, would like to meet similar Midlands male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5315901**

**CATHY,** 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420073**

## Single Men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**DARREN**, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418809**

**IAN,** 5ft8, medium build, choc, late 50s, likes most things, holidays, gardening, motorbikes, WLTM similar aged lady, 50-60, with nice personality. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421345**

**WAYNE**, 40, cheeky, good career, likes gym. Looking for a lady who likes stimulating conversation and times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419829**

**MALE,** 56, slim, 6ft, considerate and caring seeks similar type female to share life with. **Text only Mailbox: 5388635**

**EDDIE,** honest, caring, down to earth, likes all kinds of music, going out and having a good time, looking for a Black or Polish lady, for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422019**

**MALE,** kinky as hell, and you're any age/looks/race/colour, this unattached guy, 69, god love it, anyway, LTR etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422017**

**YOUNG** looking 58 year old male, looking for black or Polish female 23-49 years, I am single, white and looking for a long-term relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419903**

**MATURE** male, 60, seeks female for social meets, kisses, cuddles and intimate sexy fun, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421933**

**ATTRACTIVE,** tall, dark, professional male, 50, GSOH, easygoing, looking to meet someone with a GSOH, to have a laugh and a joke and take things from there. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421903**

**SINGLE** male 49, caring, romantic, affectionate, many interests, WLTM slim, busty female 25-45. **Text only Mailbox: 4362337**

**PHIL,** 53, 5ft7, stocky athletic build, likes keep fit, swimming, cosy nights in, meals out, WLTM an honest, attractive, caring lady, with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421385**

**LEE,** 44, honest, genuine and very caring looking for the same in a woman. **Text only Mailbox: 5422168**

**SINGLE** business man , 5'11, brown eyes, well dressed, stocky build, fair skinned, successful, not bad looking, kind, generous WLTM female for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 5441173**

**MALE** seeking female, 45 plus, status unimportant, discretion assured for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418481**

**JOE** single 40's Paddy with GSOH, warm hearted, WLTM that single special lady to brighten up my life. **Text only Mailbox: 5440368**

**WILL,** age 60, slim, grey brown hair, non smoker, keen cyclist, kind Christian man WLTM caring lady to share life with. Lives near Monmouth. **Text only Mailbox: 5447401**

**TONY,** very slim, seeks slim female, looks/age unimportant. I am very broadminded, for no strings fun. Very discreet. **Text only Mailbox: 5442177**

**ANDY,** young looking 49, 5ft5, slim build, from West Bromwich, likes films, socialising, looking for a fun lady who likes to laugh, for good times/possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421783**

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**NICK,** 41, 5ft7, Taurus, n/s, handsome, likes keeping fit, seeks female 30-40s, for friendship and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421863**

**MALE,** from West Brom, slim, young 49, looking for a special lady to spend fun times together and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421747**

**JOHN,** 60s, sincere, looking to love and be loved, hurt in the past, likes meals out, sports and east coast. **Text only Mailbox: 4467786**

**TOM,** 58, dark hair, 6ft, seeks older mature female. Size and looks not important. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421595**

**PROFESSIONAL** male 62, looking for curvy feminine woman, 50-70, for relationship, loves theatre, films, music, concerts and breaks away. **Text only Mailbox: 4435871**

**YOUNG** looking 56 single male, looking for a relationship with petite 40 to 50 year old, likes going out/staying in. **Text only Mailbox: 5428643**

**MIKE,** 6ft, medium to big build, WLTM lady for no strings fun, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421359**

**ROBERT,** solvent gentleman, seeks female companion, to attend ice hockey, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421517**

**MATURE** 23 year old. Career minded, Workaholic. Looking for a chat maybe more? Age does not matter. **Text only Mailbox: 5423510**

**NEIL** 52, solvent, average build, GSOH seeks a caring romantic female for fun nights in and out, and lots of cuddles & kisses. **Text only Mailbox: 5418572**

**YOUNG** at heart male, smart, looks younger than age, likes socalising, looking for companionship & friendship. **Text only Mailbox: 5412069**

**SHROPSHIRE** trucker, 54, WLTM female, 40-65, black or white, for friendship, fun and hopefully more x **Text only Mailbox: 5411957**

**DOMINANT** Goddess sought by tall slim compliant white male, 50, who WLTM an elegant, sensual, high heeled lady, any age/race. **Text only Mailbox: 4673363**

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**MALE,** 59, 5ft2, average build, looking for a genuine, caring lady, 55-65. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421089**

**SMOKIN'** rock geezer, 53, into gigging & camping WLTM rock chick 46-58ish, into similar, to share experiences, GSOH essential! **Text only Mailbox: 5414037**

**ADVENTUROUS** 35yr old male, slim, dark hair, likes music, bike rides and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

**50ISH** male, seeking lady 60-75 for daytime fun, must be discreet. **Text only Mailbox: 4524030**

**GRAHAM,** 50s, 5ft10, blue eyes, very smart, choc, solvent, smoker, WLTM a very feminine, sensual, high heels lady, 36-52, for romantic evenings out and holidays, South Cheshire, Staffs, aca. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421103**

**CARING** male, 55, N/S, medium build, likes meals out, music, cinema, sports, driving, seeks female, 40-60 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 239148**

**MALE** 63, N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416817**

**GENUINE** male, 58, OHAC, looking for fun lady for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417601**

**PHIL** 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings fun with younger female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414991**

**MALE** 45yrs old, self-employed motor trader/mechanic, medium build, green eyes, average looks. I am a nice genuine and honest person looking for similar lady to share a honest permanent relationship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418708**

**SOUTH** Notts guy, 60, medium 5'10 seeks attractive lady for evening & weekend fun. **Text only Mailbox: 5339775**

**MALE** 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine, caring, likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997**

**PHIL** 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875**

**WALSALL** male looking for lady for no strings adult fun on a regular basis, within 10 miles of Walsall is preferred but not essential, age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420873**

## Gay Singles

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**BI** guy WLTM guy for discreet fun. **Text only Mailbox: 5142373**

**JAMIE** 35, 5ft10 size 10/12 TV seeks male Leic area. Can accommodate. **Text only Mailbox: 4765749**

**BI-CURIOUS** male, 46, WLTM other males any age or colour, weekdays or weekends, can travel. Wolverhampton/Tetternhall areas. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421851**

I would like to meet a bi male for some good fun aged 50 plus, if interested please get in touch. **Text only Mailbox: 4179998**

**BI-CURIOUS** 45 years old, slim and good looking, looking for younger bi-curious guy for discreet fun. **Text only to Mailbox: 4917435**

**57YR** old male, slim, fit, seeks guy, 30-45 for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309951**

## Just Friends

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**LUKE** 60's, seeking young Asian friend, 20-30's to socialise with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414841**

**MODERN** young at heart lonely lady, 70's, likes trips out, holidays, seeking similar lady for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410215**

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The Albion team who were in action in Belgrade. Back row, left to right, Brendon Batson, Ally Robertson, Tony Godden, Cyrille Regis, Bryan Robson, Ally Brown. Front: Derek Statham, Tony Brown, John Wile, Laurie Cunningham, John Trewick

Over to you, skipper...At the controls of the jet to Belgrade was Albion captain John Wile as team-mates arrive behind the Iron Curtain at the airport in Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Ron Atkinson who was deflated after Red Star Belgrade goal went in

# Albion feel the heat in chilly challenge

## SPORTING MEMORIES

By Joseph Masi

**THERE is nothing more daunting than facing 95,000 hostile supporters on a cold night in eastern Europe. But 37 years ago, that was the challenge faced by Ron Atkinson's Albion side on their UEFA Cup adventure.**

A Baggies side packed full of stars, travelled out to Yugoslavia to take on Red Star Belgrade at their imposing Marakana stadium.

Having previously defeated Galatasaray, Braga and Valencia, Atkinson's men had made it through to the quarter-finals of the tournament – the first time in the club's history they had successfully navigated through three rounds of European competition.

The day before, Albion's players headed to a local television studio to watch a tape of their unknown opposition.

### Pressure

And as they ran onto the pitch, an astonishing crowd of 95,300 supporters lay in wait for what turned into a fiercely contested encounter from two well-matched sides.

Atkinson's line-up included Ally Robertson, Bryan Robson, Cyrille Regis, Laurie Cunningham and Ally Brown.

Albion started the fixture slowly and had to withstand lots of early Red Star pressure as they adapted to playing under a whistle-happy referee unused to a physical English game.

And they held on until the 85th minute, before a superbly struck free-kick from Dusan Savic – which clipped the inside of the post before finding the top corner – settled the first leg.

"Red Star were dead until that goal came," said a deflated Atkinson afterwards. "All the sparkle and life had gone out of their game and I could see us getting back to The Hawthorns with a 0-0 draw.

*"Red Star were dead until that goal came. All the sparkle and life had gone and I could see us getting back to The Hawthorns with a 0-0 draw."*

"But having said that, I must admit it was a superbly taken goal," he added.

"Mind you they had several similar chances early in the match and everyone was blocked by our solid defensive wall.

"They also have a reputation for being good at the back and now we know just how how good they are."

Upon their return to England, Atkinson's Albion geared up for an FA Cup fifth round clash with Southampton – a match which they drew 1-1.

The return leg against Belgrade, at the Hawthorns, then took place on March 21 with the two teams battling to a 1-1 draw that saw Albion lose the tie 2-1 on aggregate.

Front of 'queue' are Albion players Ally Brown, Brendan Batson, Alistair Robertson and Bryan Robson posing with two air stewardesses

Microphone in hand a Yugoslav radio commentator gets the lowdown on the match from Albion trio Cyrille Regis, Laurie Cunningham and John Wile as the listening thousands get set for the big match

# Sport

## Baggies take flight for chilly challenge

Page 55

# Wood put on spot by late penalty

**Walsall Wood 0 Highgate United 1**

A LEI Brown penalty six minutes from time gave the visitors all three points in a disappointing niggly encounter that only occasionally got out of second gear.

The tale of the first 25 minutes could be summed up in one word – stalemate.

It took until the 27th minute for an effort on goal when from a right wing free kick the ball fell to Wood skipper Harry Harris whose first time effort bounced off the crossbar.

On 35 minutes Wood gave away a free kick on the right edge of the box, Brown firing the ball through the wall to bring a full length save from Andy Hughes

A neat move left on 75 minutes opened up the Wood defence, Brown scoring from King's low cross only for an offside flag to cancel out the goal.

The goal came as Brown collected a ball right of the D, his clever ball to the left of the box was collected at pace by Loney who went down very easily and a penalty was awarded, Brown firing in the spot-kick.

**Walsall Wood 3 Heanor Town 0**

A SUPERB second half performance by Wood kept them still in with a chance of a top six finish.

The visitors had dominated the first half, hitting the woodwork twice, but after a goalless first half, Wood broke the deadlock on 52 minutes, Danny Griffiths injured in a collision with the keeper as he slotted home.

On 72 minutes Ricardo Ricketts was on the end of a clever right wing move, his cross cleared to Harris 35 yards out and he hit a screamer into the top right hand corner to put Wood two ahead.

The game was put to bed when a minute later as Ricketts put Corey Currithers clear and he beat the advancing keeper. Wood are at home to Lye Town in the second leg of the league cup semi-final tonight (Thursday).

# Benbow on target as Pics seal place in Senior Cup final

RUSHALL Olympic will take on Lichfield City in the final of the Walsall Senior Cup.

City progressed at the expense of Walsall Wood with a 2-1 win, while Pics overcame Sporting Khalsa by a single goal.

Wood played the neat approach game against Lichfield but couldn't penetrate the Keena Richards/Peter Folkes central defensive partnership. Meanwhile, at the other end the howitzer kicks from keeper Connor McCarthy caused the Wood defence no end of trouble.

It was an unlucky 13 minutes in that disaster struck for Wood as route one paid dividends for the hosts. McCarthy launched the ball forward, Tony Clarke read the bounce of the ball perfectly and ran on to score past the stranded keeper.

With 73 minutes gone, an intricate City left wing move ended with Tyrone Smith flicking the ball across the keeper to make it 2-0. Wood pulled a goal back through Harry Harris on 81.

Pics booked their place with a 42nd minute goal through Luke Benbow, who beat the offside trap and fired home from 15 yards.

# Powles that! Trophy holders hit for six

**Cricket**

PATCHED-UP Walsall Cricket club captain David Powles hit the winning six in a cup quarter-final against the holders – after rushing back from hospital with a broken thumb.

Shrewsbury, the visitors to Gorway, had won the Graham Williamson Trophy for the last six years in a row, but they were knocked out of this year's competition in Saturday's quarter-final in remarkable circumstances.

Powles won the toss and elected to field, but the Walsall captain had to go to A&E during the Shrewsbury innings after misjudging a catch.

He returned with stitches a few hours later and, coming into bat at number 10, smacked the final ball of the game over the rope to win the match by one run.

"I dropped a catch which I should have caught and fractured my thumb," said Powles. "I cut it open and it needed stitches, so I spent a couple of hours in A&E trying to sort that out.

"Fortunately I got back in time for the end of the game. It was a length ball that I hit over mid-on for six.

"The team were ecstatic. Just beating Shrewsbury alone is tough, they've won that competition for the last six years in a row, and to knock them out in the manner that we did was fantastic."

Shrewsbury finished their 40 overs on 191-5 thanks to Will Parton (46), Oliver Westbury (41*) and Henry Blofield (43*).

But the champions were restricted thanks to a superb spell from Staffordshire Minor Counties left-arm off-spinner Paul Byrne, who took 4-18 off eight overs.

Walsall's chase was stuttering at 40-3 when Bruce Thomason came in at five and bashed 66 off 64 balls, with five fours and four sixes.

Walsall host Kenilworth Wardens in the semi-final of the trophy on Sunday, May 1.

# BANTAMS BLOW WALSALL AWAY

**Bradford City 4 Walsall 0**

**NEVER in their wildest dreams would any Saddler have imagined what they were about to see.**

Jon Whitney couldn't have predicted it, neither could any of the players.

And now, the only question that matters is how will Walsall respond? In a season that has seen so many highs, this was a crushing and devastating low.

Forget the scoreline, it was manner of this defeat that angered the 686 fans who made the trip to Yorkshire. But they weren't the only ones who were furious.

"We capitulated after the first goal and I am going to look at individuals," Whitney said afterwards. "That second half, promotion was just words. If you don't want to come with me, then knock on my door and say it's too much because I'm not going to be put through that again."

It was passionate stuff with the hurt in the interim boss's voice impossible to ignore – but it was needed.

Following the 1-1 draw with Swindon days earlier – substitute Kieran Morris on target – Walsall were bullied here. They were outfought, outbattled and comfortably swept aside by a Bradford team who simply wanted it more.

### Physical

Phil Parkinson's Bantams are, in many ways, the polar opposite to Whitney's men.

They play direct, they hit a lot of hopeful long balls to a target man and they are physical.

But while they are bigger in stature, their hearts should be the same size, and yet this was an onslaught right from the off.

The Saddlers defended well in the first half. But everything changed in the second period once Filipe Morais put the home side in front.

Walsall fell apart to such an extent that James Hanson – who had never previously scored a career hat-trick – grabbed one in the space of just 15 minutes.

The only positive is that when Walsall were last written off, following away losses at Sheffield United and Oldham, they responded with arguably their best performance of the campaign at Gillingham.

# Bloxwich bowl rivals over again

Martia Painter, Barbara Wilson, with trophy and Ann Peach, with fellow squad members

A COMPETITION named in honour of a Walsall stalwart rolled into action at Oak Park Leisure Centre.

Teams from Aldridge, Bloxwich, Gorway and Walsall Probus clubs took part for the 30th anniversary of the Bill Pickering Cup.

A Bloxwich side containing three ladies were the eventual winners once more. They have now won the cup 21 times since its inception, although there was a surprise in the opening games as unfancied Walsall recorded five straight wins. However, in their remaining first round match they were beaten by the champions-elect.

At the halfway stage, Bloxwich led the way with a score of +32, with Walsall (+17) in second and Gorway (-13) in behind. Aldridge held last place with a score of -36, but rallied to take the runners-up spot after four wins in the second round, giving the final table a familiar look. It read: Bloxwich 51, Aldridge -10, Walsall -18 and Gorway -23.

The competition is named in honour of Mr Pickering, a well-known swimmer, who held the record time for crossing the Channel in 14 hours and six minutes.

Mr Pickering, who died in 2014 aged 93, took a great interest in Bloxwich Probus, attending monthly meetings when he could despite living in Derbyshire and presenting the trophy at bowls events.

This was the second time the competition was held at Oak Park as regular venue Bloxwich Leisure Centre is undergoing a major revamp. It should be completed in time to hold the tournament again in 2017.

# Caines able to hit winner over champs

**Rushall Olympic 1 Darlington 0**

RUSHALL Olympic produced a great display in the final league game of the season to overcome champions Darlington 1-0 at Dales Lane. The Pics ended up in 10th position.

Kris Taylor went close to opening the scoring with a superbly timed right-footed volley from just outside the box but Peter Jameson did well to hold the effort.

The Quakers went even closer the grabbing the first goal when captain Leon Scott smashed a volley against the outside of the post.

Richard Sneekes' side managed to take the lead against the Evo-Stik Premier champions from a set-piece when Jack Duggan headed Taylor's corner back across goal and Gavin Caines nodded past Jameson from close range.

Darlington almost equalised just after half-time when Stephen Thompson went through one-on-one but Kieran Preston did well to save his effort.

It was poor last away day for Olympic last Tuesday night as they fell to a 3-0 defeat away at promotion hopefuls Blyth Spartans.

Two quick first-half goals, from Daniel Maguire and Sean Reid, gave Rushall a mountain to climb. The game was wrapped up in the 64th minute when the ball was headed on to the post and Michael Richardson tapped in the rebound.

# Heartbreak for u-16s as cup final is lost in time added on

ALTHOUGH the Walsall senior team has experienced a disappointing season, the youth teams have shown that plenty of young players could soon be involved at senior level.

Walsall Colts scored a convincing 31-7 win over Aston Old Edwardians in the Fred Rowley Memorial. Nathan Blackwood produced two tries, while there was one apiece for Josh Townrow and Zak Edwards. The hard-working scrum half also scored a try and kicked three conversions and a penalty.

Walsall face Stourbridge in the semi-final. The final is on Tuesday, May 3 at 7.30pm.

Walsall u-16s and Lichfield met in the final of the Staffs Cup for the third time in four years and it was heartbreak for Walsall as they went down 31-28 following eight minutes of time added on.

Tries came from Jamie Harding (3) and Nico Watkins, two converted by Joe Tipson.

Walsall u-15s finished their season with a 34-17 win over Burntwood.

★★★

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